



22nd May 2020  
This week's highlights

<b>Euro</b> Firmer	<b>Sterling</b> Little changed	<b>PMIs</b> Partial recovery	<b>Retail Sales</b> Plunge in the UK
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**Euro Area**

- The euro gained overall against the dollar, rising to an intra-week high of \$1.10 before easing to around \$1.09
- Germany/France propose a €500bn fund for the EU to help countries recover from consequences of COVID-19
- Composite PMI rises to 30.5 in May, consistent with continuing but slowing pace of decline in economic activity

**UK**

- Composite PMI up in May to 28.9 but this is still well below the expansion-contraction threshold level of 50
- Volume of retail sales fell by most on record in April, down 18.1% on March (and 22.6% lower than in Apr'19)
- Sterling little changed against euro and dollar, while BOE says keeping option of negative rates under review

**US**

- Equity markets advance on the week, while benchmark 10-year bond yields are largely unchanged at 0.65%
- Number of jobless claimants rose by another 2.4m last week, points to continuing rise in unemployment rate
- Fed is "committed to using its full range of tools to support the economy" according to minutes of April meeting

**Ireland**

- The number of people in work rose by 51,500 (or 2.2%) year-on-year in Q1 2020 to stand at 2,353,500
- COVID-19 has taken toll though, with employment down to 1,751,393 at end- April according to CSO estimate
- The unemployment rate is estimated to have risen to 28.2% at the end of April from 15.5% at end-March

Monday	IRL Economic Pulse; GER IFO Business Climate Index
Tuesday	UK CBI Retail Sales Survey; US Consumer Confidence, New Home Sales, House Prices
Wednesday	IRL Air & Sea Travel; US Fed Beige Book
Thursday	EA Economic Sentiment Indicator; US Jobless Claims, Capital Goods Orders, GDP (Q1, 2nd est)
Friday	IRL Retail Sales; EA CPI, M3; UK Lloyds Business Barometer; US Consumer Spending, PCE Inflation, Trade Bal.

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