

Global FX Insights

by LMAX Group Research & Analytics

Comprehensive daily market research and analytics, with insightful commentary and charts

Coronavirus worry returns [Wake-up call](#)

It's been quite the turnaround since markets closed in the US on Wednesday. Into the Wednesday close, stocks were doing their thing, pushing to fresh record highs. But the news in early Asia of more deaths associated with the coronavirus and a big jump in reported cases, was enough to bring the risk on rally to a halt.

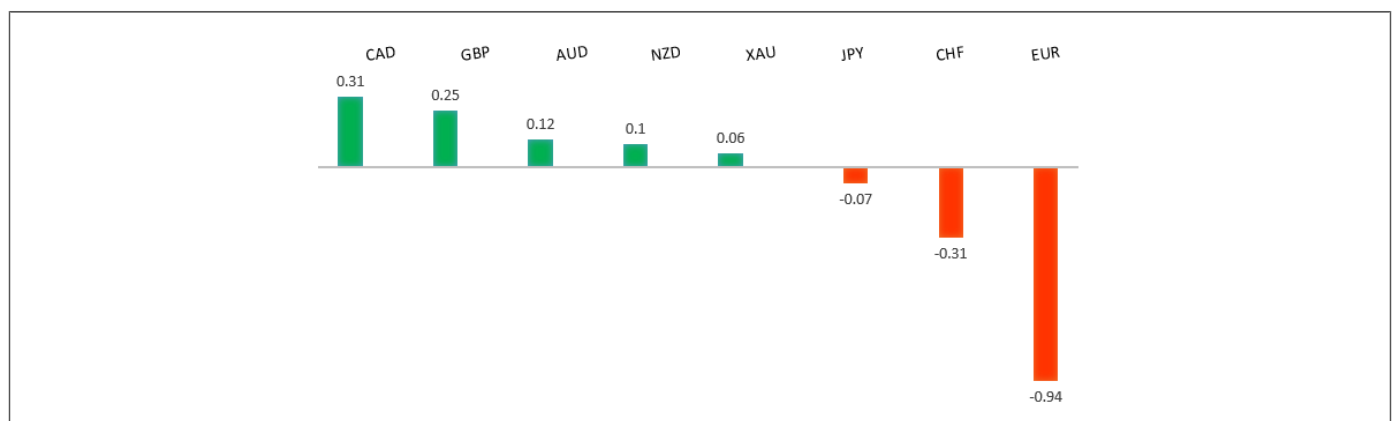
Technical highlights [Daily Video](#)

- [EURUSD](#) Carving out longer term bottom
- [GBPUSD](#) Setbacks should be well supported
- [USDJPY](#) Additional upside should be limited
- [EURCHF](#) Confined to tighter consolidation
- [AUDUSD](#) Signs of longer-term bottom
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Fundamental highlights

- [EURUSD](#) ECB Lane and German inflation reads
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- [USDJPY](#) Virus worry returns to the marker
- [EURCHF](#) SNB challenge to weaken Franc intensifies
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- [USDCAD](#) Loonie gets help from OIL recovery
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- [BTCUSD](#) More institutional demand expected
- [ETHUSD](#) Ether exposed to traditional markets

5 Day Performance vs. US dollar



Suggested reading

- [Yes, Coronavirus Is More Troubling Than the Flu](#), D. Fickling, **Bloomberg** (February 12, 2020)
- [Why Ballooning Stock Buybacks Are A Worrysome](#), S. Tully, **Fortune** (February 12, 2020)

EURUSD - technical overview

The downtrend off the 2018 high is looking exhausted and the prospect for a meaningful higher low is more compelling. A higher low is now sought out above the multi-year low from 2017, ahead of the next major upside extension. Only a weekly close back below 1.0800 would compromise this outlook. Back above 1.1412 will strengthen the view.



- **R2 1.1000** - Psychological - Strong
- **R1 1.0958** - 10 February high - Medium
- **S1 1.0865** - 13 February low - Medium
- **S2 1.0839** - May 2017 low - Strong

EURUSD - fundamental overview

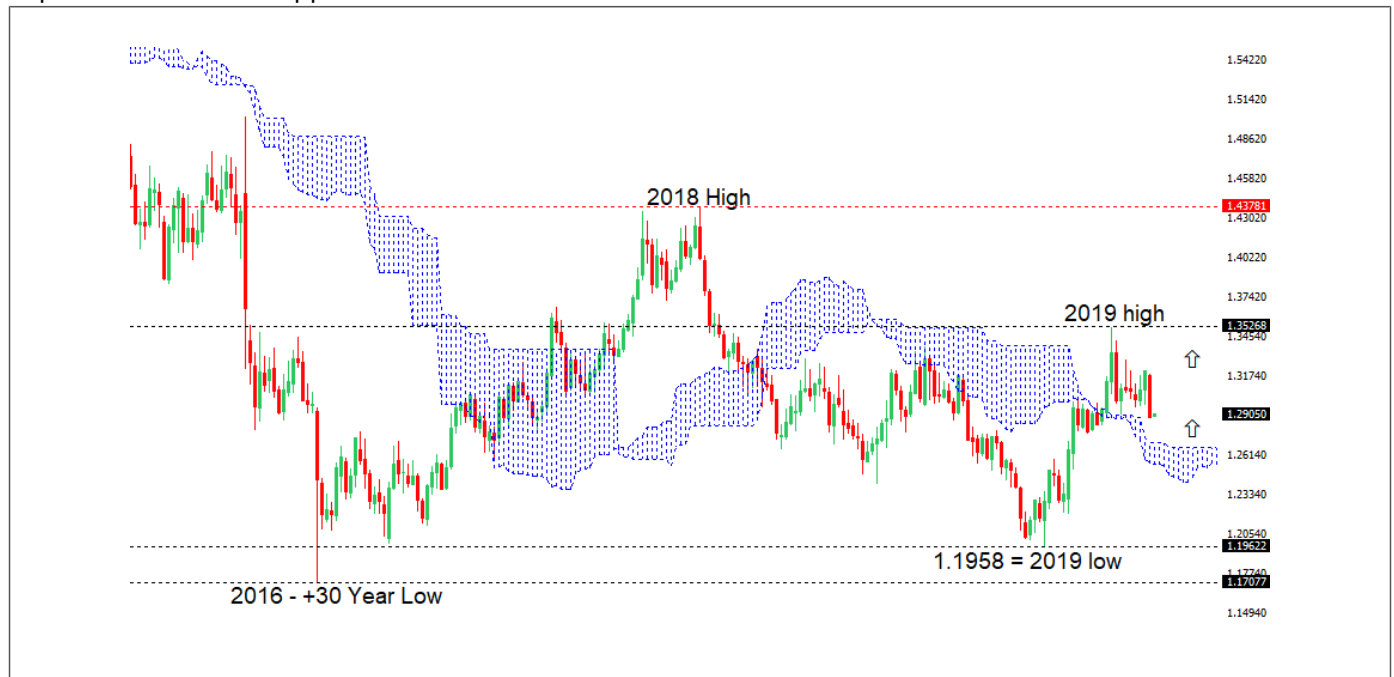
The Euro has extended its run of declines to the lowest level since 2017, with the single currency suffering another blow in Wednesday trade after Eurozone industrial production came in below forecast with a downward revision to the previous print. A well known German bank warned Germany could be on the verge of recession, with the coronavirus potentially weakening the country's industrial output. Looking ahead, we get German inflation, European Commission forecasts, an ECB Lane speech, US inflation and US initial jobless claims.

EURUSD - Technical charts in detail

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GBPUSD - technical overview

The market has seen a recovery out from the lowest levels since 2016, with the price now pushing back above the weekly Ichimoku cloud to signal a bullish structural shift. Ultimately, only back below the 1.2500 handle would compromise the newly established constructive medium and longer-term outlook. Next key resistance comes in the form of the monthly high from September 2017 at 1.3658, with setbacks expected to be well supported ahead of 1.2800.



- **R2 1.3071** - 5 February high - Strong
- **R1 1.3000** - Psychological - Medium
- **S1 1.2872** - 10 February low - Medium
- **S2 1.2768** - 8 November low - Strong

GBPUSD - fundamental overview

Most of the latest boost in the Pound has come from UK economic data that has been leaning to the positive side, and a better outlook for the upcoming UK budget. The back and forth between the UK and EU continues but hasn't generated much attention in recent sessions. Looking ahead, we get US inflation and US initial jobless claims. There is no first tier data scheduled on the UK docket.

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USDJPY - technical overview

Despite rally attempts, the longer-term downtrend remains firmly intact. Rallies should continue to be well capped below 111.00 on a monthly closes basis, with deeper setbacks anticipated towards a retest of the yearly low, below which exposes critical support in the form of the 2016 low at 99.00 further down. Next major support comes in the form of the October 2018 low at 106.48. Only back above the 112.40, 2019 high would compromise the bearish outlook.



- **R2 110.30** - 17 January high - Strong
- **R1 110.14** - 12 February high - Medium
- **S1 109.30** - 5 February low - Medium
- **S2 108.31** - 31 January low - Strong

USDJPY - fundamental overview

Reports of an uptick in both deaths and reported coronavirus cases has resulted in a fresh wave of panic in markets into Thursday. This is weighing on the major pair. Looking ahead, we get US inflation and US initial jobless claims.

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EURCHF - technical overview

The market remains very well capped into offers and the medium-term picture continues to favour the downside. A break back above 1.1060 would be required to take the immediate pressure off the downside. Below 1.0800 exposes the 1.0600 area.



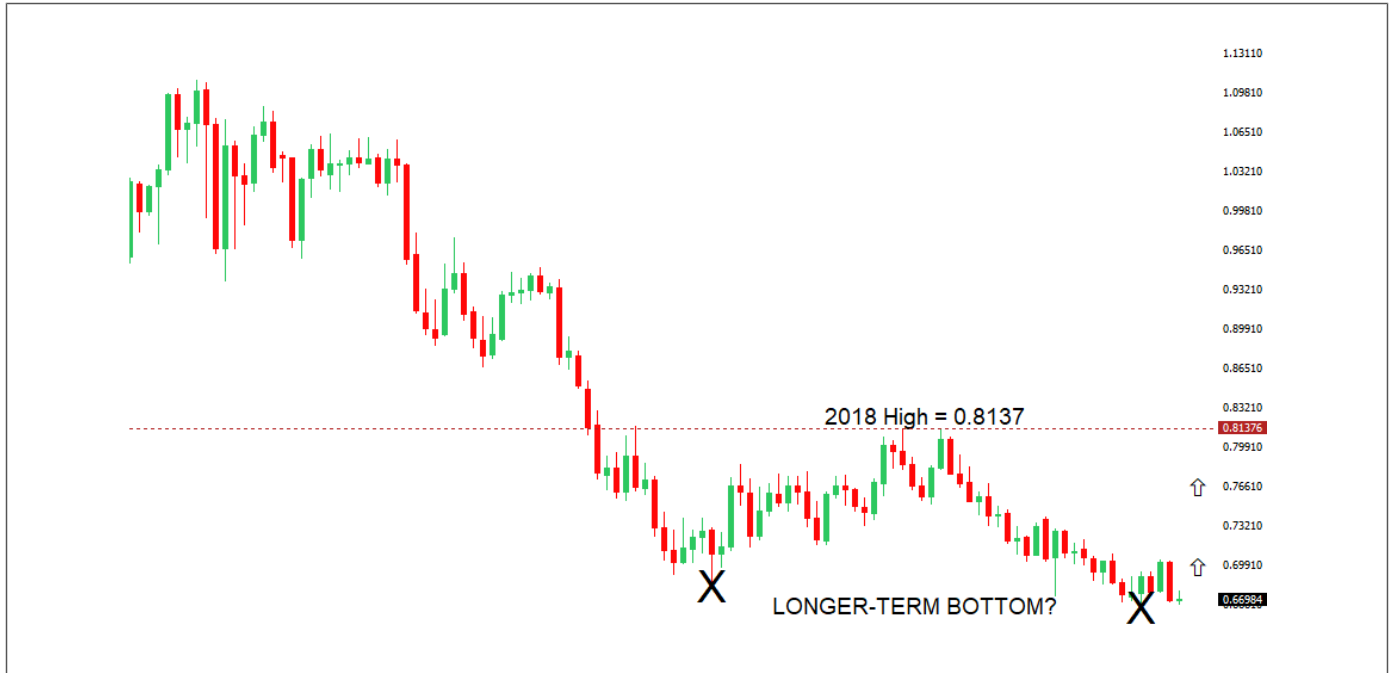
- **R2 1.0906** - 27 December high - Strong
- **R1 1.0834** - 13 January high - Medium
- **S1 1.0626** - 13 February/2020 low - Medium
- **S2 1.0600** - Figure - Strong

EURCHF - fundamental overview

The SNB remains uncomfortable with Franc appreciation and continues to remind the market it will need to be careful about any attempts at trying to force an appreciation in the currency. But the SNB will also need to be careful right now, as its strategy to weaken the Franc is facing headwinds from a less certain global outlook, and from a US administration that has put Switzerland on its currency manipulator watchlist. Any signs of risk liquidation in 2020, will likely invite a very large wave of demand for the Franc that will put the SNB in the more challenging position of needing to back up its talk with action, that ultimately, may not prove to be as effective as it once was, given where we're at in the monetary policy cycle.

AUDUSD - technical overview

The market has been under pressure over the past several months, but has also been well supported on dips. The price action suggests we could be seeing the formation of a major base, though it would take a clear break back above 0.7100 to strengthen this outlook. In the interim, look for setbacks to continue to be well supported above 0.6500 on a monthly close basis.



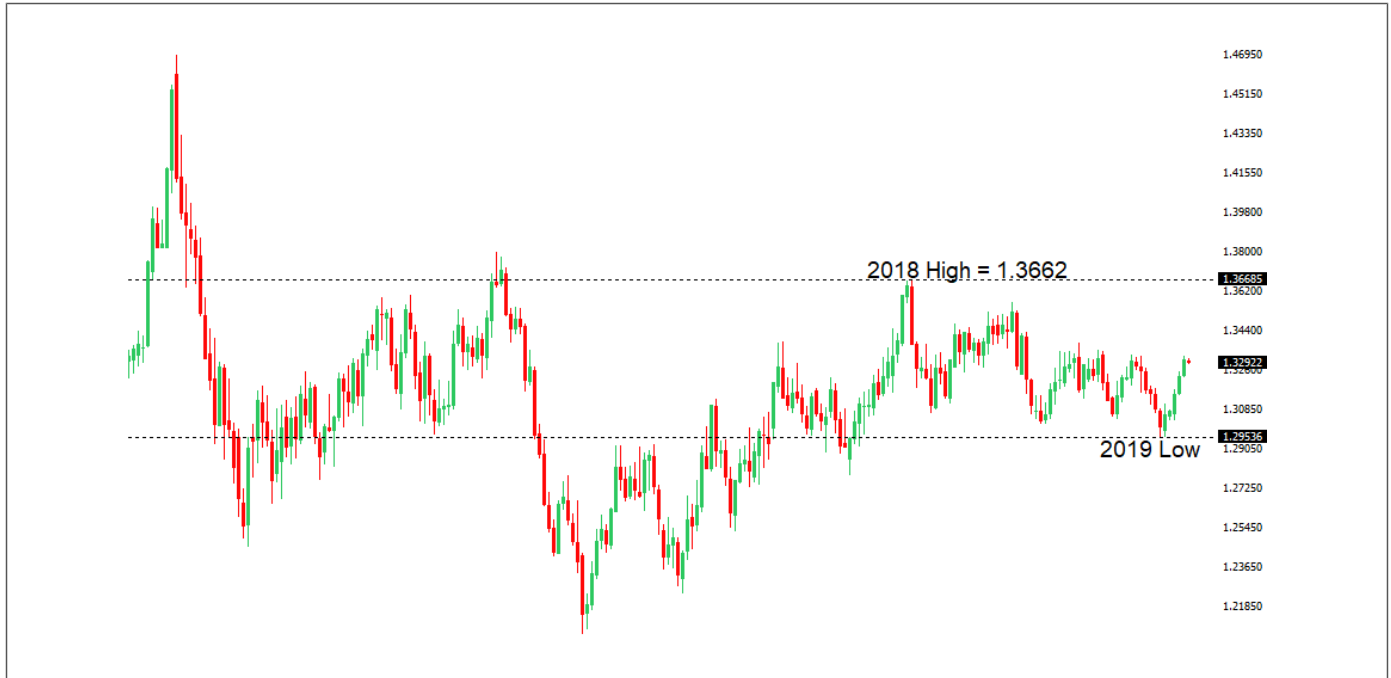
- **R2 0.6934** -16 January high - Strong
- **R1 0.6775** - 5 February high - Medium
- **S1 0.6662** - 7 February low/**Multi-Year low** - Medium
- **S2 0.6600** - Psychological - Strong

AUDUSD - fundamental overview

The Australian Dollar has been trying its best to recover on the back of a less dovish leaning RBA and ongoing demand for global equities despite coronavirus fears. RBA Lowe was out looking past the coronavirus impact in a recent speech and speaking of the positive impact from China stimulus. We have however seen some renewed selling into Thursday as global equities come off a bit in response to the latest worry around the virus. Looking ahead, we get US inflation and US initial jobless claims.

USDCAD - technical overview

The downturn in late 2019 has resulted in a medium-term shift in the trend, with the pressure back on the downside. The break back below major psychological support at 1.3000 now exposes deeper setbacks towards the 1.2782 low from September 2018. At this stage, the market would need to push back above the November 2019 high at 1.3328 to take the immediate pressure off the downside.



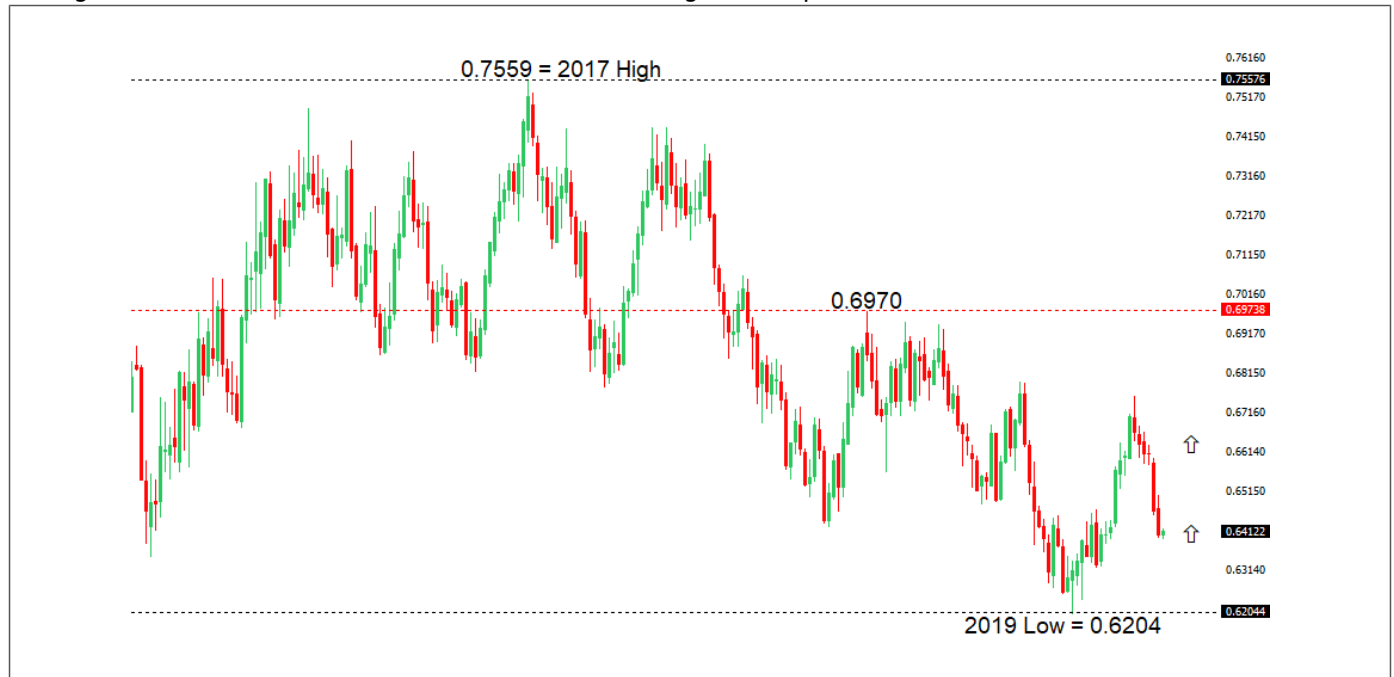
- **R2 1.3348** - 3 October high - Strong
- **R1 1.3330** - 10 February high - Medium
- **S1 1.3232** - 3 February low - Medium
- **S2 1.3118** - 24 January low - Strong

USDCAD - fundamental overview

The Canadian Dollar is trying to find some renewed demand on the back of improved risk appetite and a decent recovery in the price of OIL. Looking ahead, we get US inflation and US initial jobless claims. There is no first tier data on the Canada docket.

NZDUSD - technical overview

There's a case to be made for a meaningful bottom, with the market rallying out from longer-term cycle low area around 0.6200. As such, look for setbacks to be well supported in the days ahead, in anticipation of a continued recovery. Only a weekly close below 0.6200 would give reason for rethink. Back above 0.6800 strengthens the outlook and takes the medium to longer-term pressure off the downside.



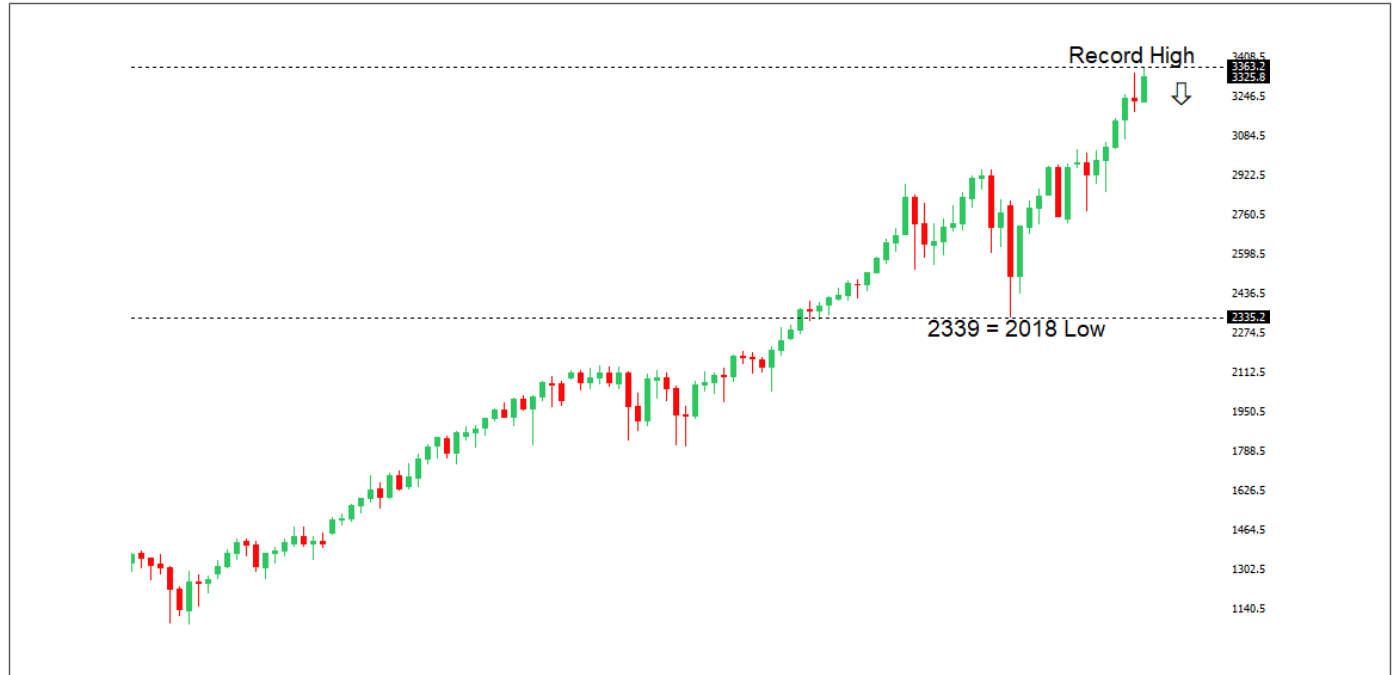
- **R2 0.6550** - 28 January high - Strong
- **R1 0.6500** - Figure - Medium
- **S1 0.6378** - 11 February low - Medium
- **S2 0.6322** - 8 November low - Strong

NZDUSD - fundamental overview

The New Zealand Dollar has been better bid in the latter half of the week, in the aftermath of a hawkish tone to the RBNZ's rate hold. Any expectations the central bank would be looking to cut rates were put down, after the RBNZ communicated a message that it thought the rate cut cycle had ended. We have however seen some renewed selling on the back of some dovish speak from RBNZ Hawkesby and this latest round of risk reduction on coronavirus fear. Looking ahead, we get US inflation and US initial jobless claims.

US SPX 500 - technical overview

There have been signs of a major longer term top, after an exceptional run over the past decade. Any rallies from here, are expected to be very well capped, in favour of a major correction targeting an eventual test of the 2018 low at 2339. The initial level of major support comes in at 3070, with a break below to strengthen the outlook. A monthly close above 3400 would be required to compromise the outlook.



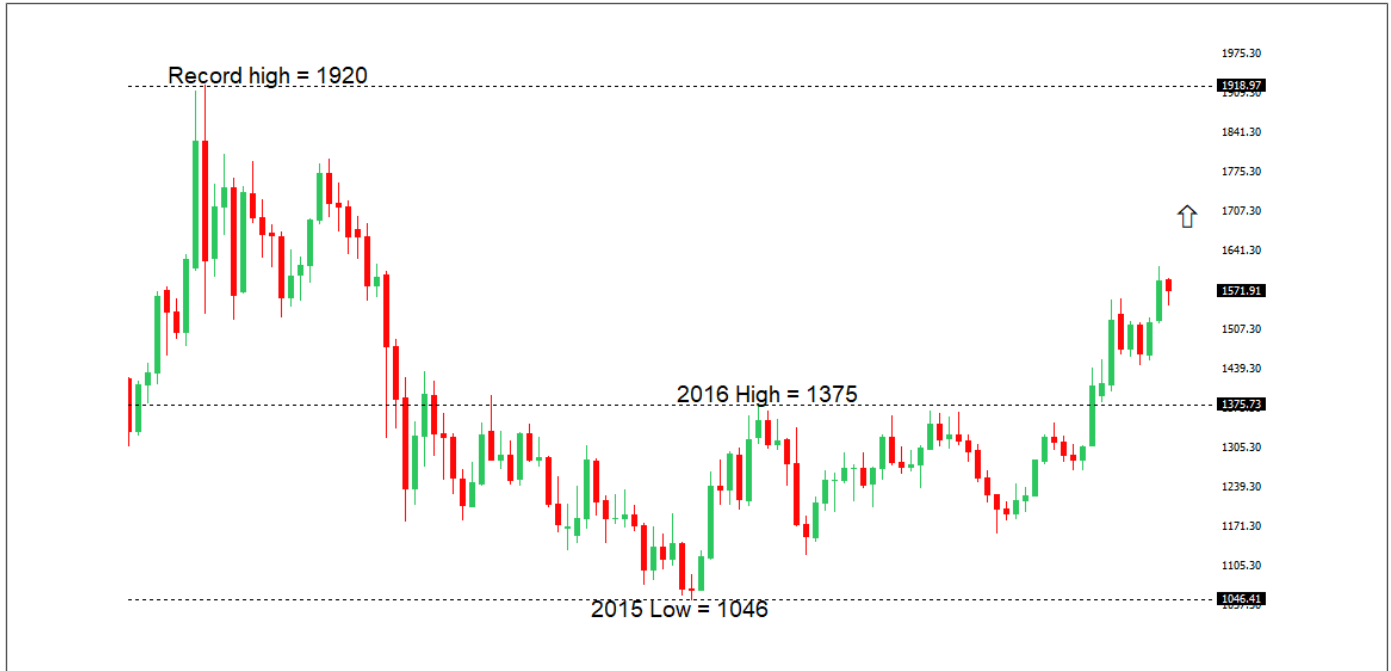
- **R2 3400** - Psychological - Strong
- **R1 3375** - 11 February/**Record high** - Medium
- **S1 3215** - 31 January low - Medium
- **S2 3070** - 3 December low - Strong

US SPX 500 - fundamental overview

Although we've seen the market extending to fresh record highs in 2020, with so little room for additional central bank accommodation, given an already depressed interest rate environment, the prospect for a meaningful extension of this record run, on easy money policy incentives, should no longer be as enticing to investors as it once was. Meanwhile, tension on the global trade front, geopolitical risk, and worry associated with the coronavirus, should weigh more heavily on investor sentiment into 2020. We recommend keeping a much closer eye on the equities to ten year yield comparative going forward, as the movement here is something that could be a major stress to the financial markets looking out.

GOLD (SPOT) - technical overview

The 2019 breakout above the 2016 high at 1375 was a significant development, and suggests the market is in the early stages of a bullish move that follows a multi-month consolidation. The next major level of resistance comes in around 1650 (measured move extension target), while in the interim, look for any setbacks to be well supported above 1400.



- **R2 1650** - Measured move target - Strong
- **R1 1612** - 8 January/2019 high - Medium
- **S1 1500** - Psychological - Medium
- **S2 1445** - 12 November low - Strong

GOLD (SPOT) - fundamental overview

The yellow metal continues to be well supported on dips with solid demand from medium and longer-term accounts. These players are more concerned about exhausted monetary policy, extended global equities, political uncertainty, systemic risk and trade war threats. All of this should keep the commodity well supported, with many market participants also fleeing to the hard asset as the grand dichotomy of record high equities and record low yields comes to an unnerving climax.

BTCUSD - technical overview

Setbacks should be very well supported in the 6,000 area, with a higher low sought out in favour of a bullish continuation back above the 2019 high and towards the record high from late 2017 further up. Ultimately, only a weekly close below 5,750 would compromise the constructive outlook. Back above the October 2019 high further encourages bullish prospect.



- **R2 11,000** - Psychological - Medium
- **R1 10,500** - October 2019 high - Strong
- **S1 9,102** - 4 February low - Medium
- **S2 8,235** - 24 January low - Strong

BTCUSD - fundamental overview

Bitcoin demand is expected to pick up in 2020, with market forces to likely make a stronger argument for the emerging cryptocurrency. In a world where rates are at historic lows and the equity market looks to be inching closer to major capitulation, the idea of owning a decentralised, limited supply currency, becomes increasingly attractive as a store of value. Moreover, there is plenty of development going on in the decentralised technology space, which should only add to the draw.

BTCUSD - Technical charts in detail

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ETHUSD - technical overview

The market is in the process of turning back up after stalling out in the latter half of 2019. Look for setbacks to be well supported above of previous resistance turned support at 180 on a weekly close basis, in favour of the next major higher low and bullish resumption back towards and through the 2019 high up at 363. Ultimately, only a weekly close below 180 would compromise the outlook.



- **R2 300** - Psychological - Strong
- **R1 274** - 13 February high - Medium
- **S1 216** - 10 February low - Medium
- **S2 155** - 24 January low - Strong

ETHUSD - fundamental overview

There is plenty of Ether demand built up, with so much optimism around prospects for the blockchain given all of the development going on in the decentralised finance space. At the same time, macroeconomics will likely play a negative role in 2020, at least relative to the price of Bitcoin, with Eth expected to underperform in a risk off backdrop, in light of Ethereum's higher sensitivity and correlation with risk themes.



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