

Today's economic highlights...

Singapore PM: 'Considerable risk' of severe US-China tensions

- BBC NEWS - Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has told the BBC that a clash between the US and China is more likely than it was five years ago. However, he maintained that the odds of military conflict are "not yet high".
- The prime minister said if both nations continue to take a hard line because of domestic considerations, they could easily find themselves at an impasse.
- The Biden administration will hold its first high-level talks with Chinese officials in Alaska next week. [Read more...](#)

Dollar steadies from one-week lows as bond yields tick up

- TOKYO (Reuters) - The U.S. dollar climbed from a near one-week low on Friday as bond yields inched higher, but it looked set for its first weekly fall in three against a basket of its major rivals as riskier currencies drew support from calmer market sentiment.
- The dollar index against six major currencies rose 0.2% to 91.58 after hitting 91.364 overnight for the first time since March 4. It has dropped around 0.6% this week, retreating from a more-than-three-month high reached on Tuesday.
- The euro traded at about \$1.1965, holding firm after the European Central Bank, as widely expected, said on Thursday it would accelerate its emergency bond purchases over the next quarter. [Read more...](#)

Brent crude eases, but stays near \$70 as demand optimism lends support

- SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Brent crude prices eased on Friday but hovered near \$70 a barrel as production cuts by major oil producers constrained supply, with optimism about a recovery in demand for the resource in the second half of the year also lending support.
- Brent crude futures for May slipped 11 cents, or 0.2%, to \$69.52 a barrel by 0403 GMT while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude for April was at \$65.83 a barrel, down 19 cents, or 0.3%.
- Front-month Brent is on track to post weekly gains for the eighth week after touching a 13-month high on Monday following attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities. [Read more...](#)