

## Today's economic highlights...

### Oil falls as India's COVID-19 surge to weigh on fuel demand

- TOKYO (Reuters) - Oil prices fell on Monday on fears that surging COVID-19 cases in India will drive down fuel demand in the world's third biggest oil importer and as investors adjusted positions ahead of a planned increase in OPEC+ oil output from May.
- [Brent crude](#) futures dropped 38 cents, or 0.6%, to \$65.73 a barrel by 0507 GMT, following a 1.1% rise on Friday. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were down 31 cents, or 0.5%, at \$61.83 a barrel, after rising 1.2% on Friday.
- Both benchmark crudes fell about 1% last week. [Read more...](#)

### Dollar Is Heavy Ahead Of What's Expected To Be A Dovish Fed

- The US dollar had another rough week, and the poor close ahead of the weekend warns that the downside may not be exhausted. Despite unmistakable signs that the US economy is accelerating, and by more than expected, the US [10-year](#) yield is around 25 bp off the end of March high. This seems to dampen the enthusiasm for holding the greenback.
- The Federal Reserve [meets](#) this week and there is no compelling reason to expect a change in tone from either the [statement](#) or Chair Powell's [remarks](#). The Fed has anticipated that the pace of activity and prices would pick up and they have.
- We think as the economy continues to open up, and growth broadens and deepens, it will be increasingly difficult to justify the \$120 bln a month in bond purchases. Although it is not fully discounted, the market leans strongly toward a rate hike by the end of next year. [Read more...](#)

### European Stock Futures Edge Higher; German Ifo Due

- Investing.com - European stock markets are seen edging higher at the open Monday, continuing the global rally amid signs the world economic recovery was well on track.
- At 3:05 AM ET (0705 GMT), the [DAX futures](#) contract in Germany traded 0.1% higher, [CAC 40 futures](#) in France climbed 0.1% and the [FTSE 100 futures](#) contract in the U.K. rose 0.1%.
- Wall Street closed firmly higher Friday, with the broad-based [S&P 500](#), for example, hitting a record intraday peak to end up 1.1%, and this positive tone continued in Asia, with even India's [Nifty 50](#) gaining 1.2%, despite the country continuing to battle record levels of new Covid-19 infections. [Read more...](#)