

Economic Briefing

10 May 2022

Corona Update – 10 May

In Germany, the number of new infections is hardly meaningful any more because of the change in testing strategy and behaviour. However, a look at the hospitalisation of Corona-infected persons and the Corona patients in intensive care units shows that the end of most Corona measures has not led to a new wave of infections. Along with this, the fear of Corona among the population has also decreased significantly. Shops and restaurants are heavily frequented again.

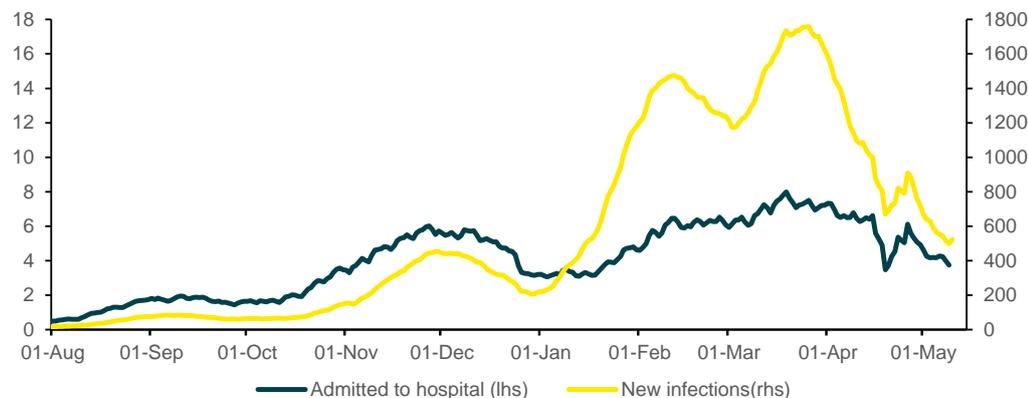
Infection situation

- In **Germany**, the lifting of most Corona restrictions has not led to an increase in the number of infections. On the contrary, the health authorities are reporting fewer and fewer new infections, or more precisely positive PCR tests (see chart 1). When interpreting the figures, however, it must be taken into account that the decline is also partly due to the changed testing strategy (a free PCR test is now only available in the case of a positive citizen test) and the changed testing behaviour (not everyone with symptoms also takes a PCR test).

The number of undetected infections is likely to remain very high. This is supported by the fact that the number of hospital admissions of people infected with Corona is falling much more slowly than the number of new infections. The still very high proportion of positive test results (almost 42%) also suggests a high number of unreported cases.

Chart 1 - In Germany, fewer and fewer Corona-infected people are being admitted to hospitals

Reported new infections in the past seven days and hospital admissions, per 100,000 inhabitants



Source: RKI, Commerzbank Research

- However, it is undisputed that the number of severe cases of the disease has continued to decline significantly since the beginning of April. Yesterday, only 1,083 adults infected with corona required intensive medical treatment, the lowest number since the end of August (see chart 2). Only about 5% of the intensive care beds are currently occupied by Corona patients.

Authors

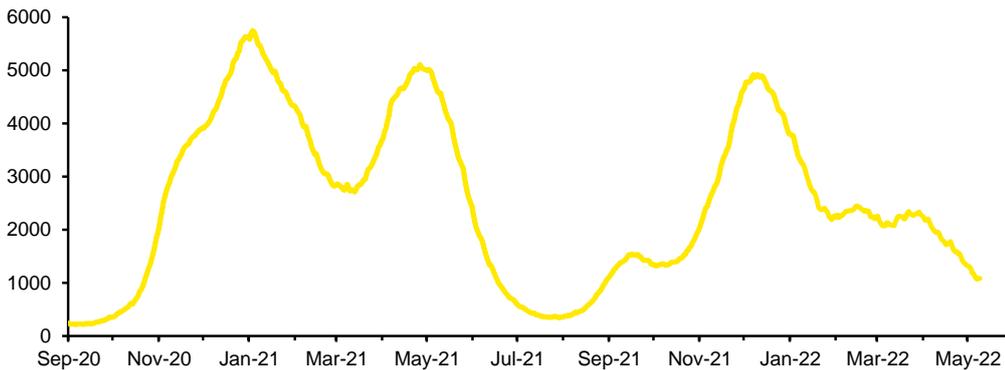
Christoph Weil
Senior Economist
+49 69 136 24041
christoph.weil@commerzbank.com

Bernd Weidensteiner
Senior Economist
+49 69 136 24527
bernd.weidensteiner@commerzbank.com

Dr. Marco Wagner
Senior Economist
+49 69 136 84335
marco.wagner@commerzbank.com

Chart 2 - Number of Corona intensive care patients as low as last at the end of August

Number of adult corona patients in German intensive care units

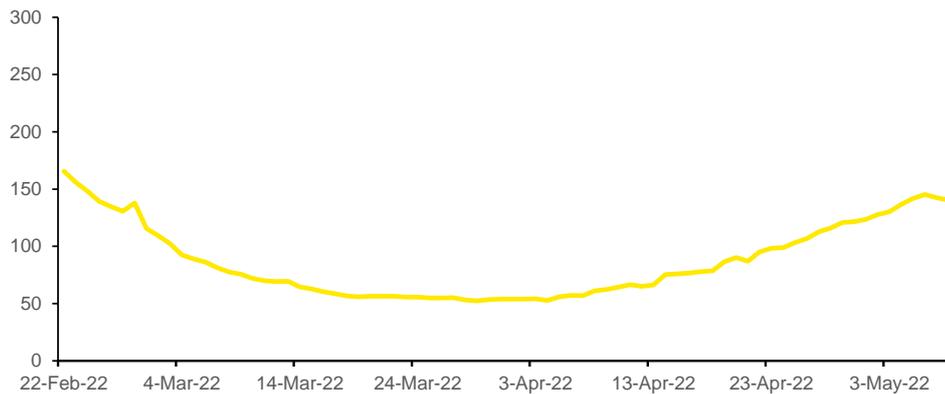


Source: RKI, Commerzbank Research

- In the **U.S.**, the increase in the number of cases observed since the end of March has not continued for the time being. The 7-day incidence has stabilized at around 140 per 100,000 population (see chart 3).

Chart 3 - USA: New Corona cases seem to level out after increase

7-day sum of new Corona infections per 100,000 population



Source: CDC, CommerzbankResearch

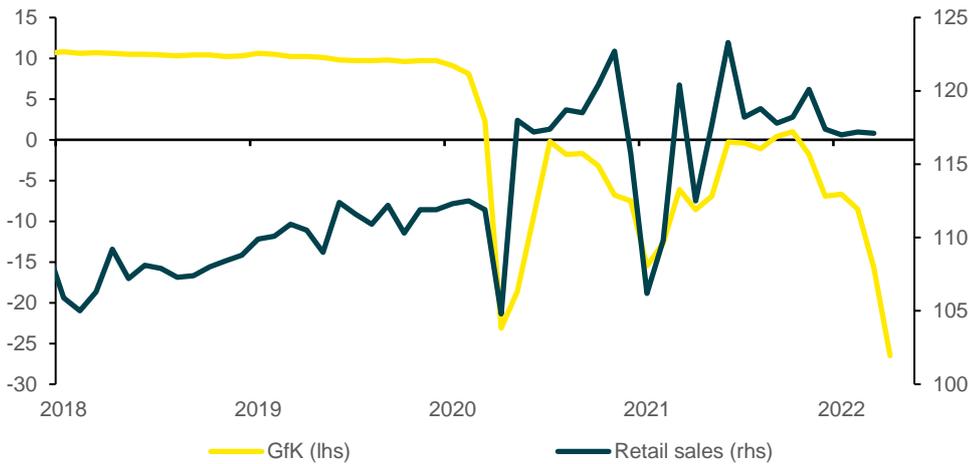
- Until recently, **Taiwan** had followed a variant of the zero-covid policy. Now the health authorities have changed their approach. Sick people who only suffer from a mild course of Corona infection or are completely asymptomatic are now allowed to quarantine themselves at home and no longer have to isolate themselves in hospitals. In addition, quarantine periods have been shortened for those entering the country or residents who have had contact with covid-infected individuals. The new policy is due to the fact that the Omicron variant usually leads to a milder course of disease when contracted.
- **China**, in contrast, is maintaining its strict zero covid policy. Shanghai has been in a strict lockdown for more than a month. Even in Beijing, which has so far avoided a general lockdown, entire residential complexes are isolated and schools remain closed for the time being, even after the end of the May holidays.

Economy

- In view of Russia's war against Ukraine, consumer sentiment in **Germany** has slumped according to the GfK survey (see chart 4). Contrary to the fears of retailers, their (price-adjusted) sales still held up well in March. Adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects, they declined by just 0.1% compared to the previous month.

Chart 4 - Germany: Resilient retail sales despite a slump in consumer climate

GfK consumer climate, diffusion index, lagged by one month; retail sales, price adjusted, seasonally and calendar adjusted

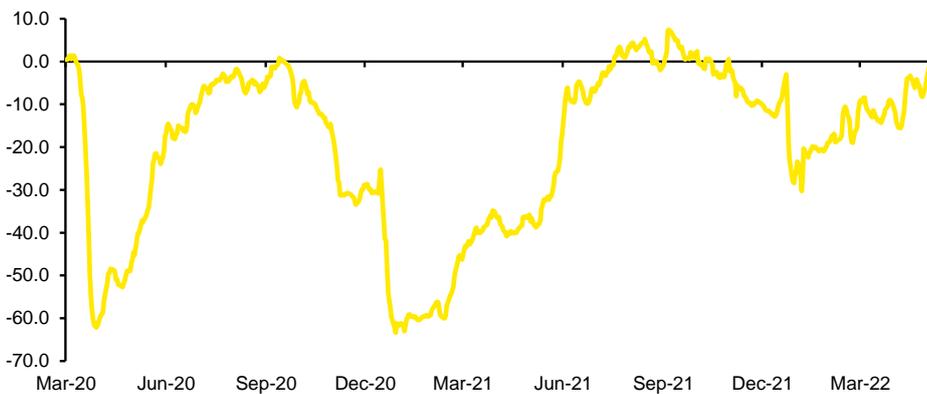


Source: Global Insight

- Daily data for April and the beginning of May also suggest that there is unlikely to have been a slump in retail sales. At least, according to Google Mobility data, shops were busier with customers in April than in March (see chart 5). In the first week of May, the 7-day average showed that there were almost as many customers in the shops as before the pandemic. This should be a good sign, even if it should be noted that the Google indicator includes not only shopping centers but also restaurants, cafés, museums and the like, and the pure number of customers does not yet mean sales. Nevertheless, this indicator has provided good indications so far since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Chart 5 - Germany: Retail shops almost as frequented as in normal times

Mobility trends for places such as shopping malls, restaurants, cafés, amusement parks, museums, libraries and cinemas, as a percentage of the median weekdays of the period between 3 January and 6 February 2020



Source: Google Mobility Report, Commerzbank Research

In accordance with ESMA MAR requirements this report was completed 10/5/2022 06:43 CEST and disseminated 10/5/2022 06:43 CEST.

This document has been created and published by the Group Research department (GM-R) within the Group Management division of Commerzbank AG, Frankfurt/Main or Commerzbank's branch offices mentioned in the document. Commerzbank AG is a provisionally registered swap dealer with the CFTC.

Please note that the author(s) certify that (a) the views expressed in this report accurately reflect their personal views; and (b) no part of their compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or views expressed by them contained in this document. The research analyst(s) named on this report are not registered / qualified as research analysts with FINRA. Such research analyst(s) may not be associated persons of Commerz Markets LLC and therefore may not be subject to FINRA Rule 2241 restrictions on communications with a subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by a research analyst account.

It has not been determined in advance whether and in what intervals this document will be updated. Unless otherwise stated current prices refer to the most recent trading day's closing price or spread which may fluctuate.

Conflicts of interest

Disclosures of potential conflicts of interest relating to Commerzbank AG, its affiliates, subsidiaries (together "Commerzbank") and its relevant employees with respect to the issuers, financial instruments and/or securities forming the subject of this document valid as of the end of the month prior to publication of this document*:

Please refer to the following link for disclosures on companies included in compendium reports or disclosures on any company covered by Commerzbank analysts: <https://commerzbank.bluematrix.com/sellside/Disclosures.action>*

*Updating this information may take up to ten days after month end.

Disclaimer

This document is for information purposes only and does not take into account specific circumstances of any recipient. The information contained herein does not constitute the provision of investment advice. It is not intended to be and should not be construed as a recommendation, offer or solicitation to acquire, or dispose of, any of the financial instruments and/or securities mentioned in this document and will not form the basis or a part of any contract or commitment whatsoever. Investors should seek independent professional advice and draw their own conclusions regarding suitability of any transaction including the economic benefits, risks, legal, regulatory, credit, accounting and tax implications.

The information in this document is based on public data obtained from sources believed by Commerzbank to be reliable and in good faith, but no representations, guarantees or warranties are made by Commerzbank with regard to accuracy, completeness or suitability of the data. Commerzbank has not performed any independent review or due diligence of publicly available information regarding an unaffiliated reference asset or index. The opinions and estimates contained herein reflect the current judgement of the author(s) on the date of this document and are subject to change without notice. The opinions do not necessarily correspond to the opinions of Commerzbank. Commerzbank does not have an obligation to update, modify or amend this document or to otherwise notify a reader thereof in the event that any matter stated herein, or any opinion, projection, forecast or estimate set forth herein, changes or subsequently becomes inaccurate.

In order to address potential conflicts of interest Commerzbank's Research department operates independently of other business units of the bank. This is achieved by way of physical and administrative information barriers and separate reporting lines as well as by written internal policies and procedures.

This communication may contain trading ideas where Commerzbank may trade in such financial instruments with customers or other counterparties. Any prices provided herein (other than those that are identified as being historical) are indicative only, and do not represent firm quotes as to either size or price. The past performance of financial instruments is not indicative of future results. No assurance can be given that any financial instrument or issuer described herein would yield favourable investment results. Any forecasts or price targets shown for companies and/or securities discussed in this document may not be achieved due to multiple risk factors including without limitation market volatility, sector volatility, corporate actions, the unavailability of complete and accurate information and/or the subsequent transpiration that underlying assumptions made by Commerzbank or by other sources relied upon in the document were inapposite.

Commerzbank and or its affiliates may act as a market maker in the instrument(s) and or its derivative that has been mentioned in our research reports. Employees of Commerzbank and or its affiliates may provide written or oral commentary, including trading strategies, to our clients and business units that may be contrary to the opinions conveyed in this research report. Commerzbank may perform or seek to perform investment banking services for issuers mentioned in research reports.

Neither Commerzbank nor any of its respective directors, officers or employees accepts any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any expense, loss or damages arising out of or in any way connected with the use of all or any part of this document.

Commerzbank may provide hyperlinks to websites of entities mentioned in this document, however the inclusion of a link does not imply that Commerzbank endorses, recommends or approves any material on the linked page or accessible from it. Commerzbank does not accept responsibility whatsoever for any such material, nor for any consequences of its use.

This document is for the use of the addressees only and may not be reproduced, redistributed or passed on to any other person or published, in whole or in part, for any purpose, without the prior, written consent of Commerzbank. The manner of distributing this document may be restricted by law or regulation in certain countries, including the United States. Persons into whose possession this document may come are required to inform themselves about and to observe such restrictions. By accepting this document, a recipient hereof agrees to be bound by the foregoing limitations.

Additional notes to readers in the following countries:

Germany: Commerzbank AG is registered in the Commercial Register at Amtsgericht Frankfurt under the number HRB 32000. Commerzbank AG is supervised by both the German regulator, Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin), Graurheindorfer Strasse 108, 53117 Bonn, Marie-Curie-Strasse 24-28, 60439 Frankfurt am Main and the European Central Bank, Sonnemannstrasse 20, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

United Kingdom: This document has been issued or approved for issue in the United Kingdom by Commerzbank AG London Branch. Commerzbank AG, London Branch is authorised and regulated by Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin) and the European Central Bank. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and with deemed variation of permission. Subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Details of the Temporary Permissions Regime, which allows EEA-based firms to operate in the UK for a limited period while seeking full authorisation, are available on the Financial Conduct Authority's website. This document is directed exclusively to eligible counterparties and professional clients. It is not directed to retail clients. No persons other than an eligible counterparty or a professional client should read or rely on any information in this document. Commerzbank AG, London Branch does not deal for or advise or otherwise offer any investment services to retail clients.

United States: This document has been approved for distribution in the US under applicable US law by Commerz Markets LLC ("CMLLC"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Commerzbank AG and a US registered broker-dealer. Any securities transaction by US persons must be effected with CMLLC. Under applicable US law; information regarding clients of CMLLC may be distributed to other companies within the Commerzbank group. This research report is intended for distribution in the United States solely to "institutional investors" and "major US institutional investors," as defined in Rule 15a-6 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. CMLLC is a member of FINRA and SIPC. Banking services in the US. will be provided by Commerzbank AG, New York Branch. Securities activities in the US are conducted through CMLLC and swap transactions with Commerzbank AG. Commerzbank AG is not a member of SIPC and is a provisionally registered swap dealer with the CFTC. Any derivatives transaction with US persons must be effected in accordance with the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Some products or services may be unavailable in the United States.

Canada: The information contained herein is not, and under no circumstances is to be construed as, a prospectus, an advertisement, a public offering, an offer to sell securities described herein, solicitation of an offer to buy securities described herein, in Canada or any province or territory thereof. Any offer or sale of the securities described herein in Canada will be made only under an exemption from the requirements to file a prospectus with the relevant Canadian securities regulators and only by a dealer properly registered under applicable securities laws or, alternatively, pursuant to an exemption from the dealer registration requirement in the relevant

province or territory of Canada in which such offer or sale is made. Under no circumstances is the information contained herein to be construed as investment advice in any province or territory of Canada and is not tailored to the needs of the recipient. In Canada, the information contained herein is intended solely for distribution to Permitted Clients (as such term is defined in National Instrument 31-103) with whom Commerz Markets LLC deals pursuant to the international dealer exemption. To the extent that the information contained herein references securities of an issuer incorporated, formed or created under the laws of Canada or a province or territory of Canada, any trades in such securities may not be conducted through Commerz Markets LLC. No securities commission or similar regulatory authority in Canada has reviewed or in any way passed upon these materials, the information contained herein or the merits of the securities described herein and any representation to the contrary is an offence.

European Economic Area: Where this document has been produced by a legal entity outside of the EEA, the document has been re-issued by Commerzbank AG, London Branch for distribution into the EEA. Commerzbank AG, London Branch is authorised and regulated by Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin) and the European Central Bank. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and with deemed variation of permission. Subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Details of the Temporary Permissions Regime, which allows EEA-based firms to operate in the UK for a limited period while seeking full authorisation, are available on the Financial Conduct Authority's website.

Switzerland: This is an advertisement in the meaning of FIDLEG. The financial instruments mentioned in this publication do not constitute a participation in a collective investment scheme in the sense of the Swiss Collective Investment Schemes Act (CISA). This publication, the information contained herein as well as any other publication in connection with the financial instruments mentioned herein may be distributed exclusively to qualified investors as defined in the CISA and may only be made available to such qualified investors.

Singapore: This document is furnished in Singapore by Commerzbank AG, Singapore branch. It may only be received in Singapore by an institutional investor or an accredited investor as respectively defined in section 4A of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore ("SFA") pursuant to section 274 or section 275 (as applicable) of the SFA. Nothing in this document constitutes accounting, legal, regulatory, tax, financial or other advice and/or recommendations to the recipient of this communication. Further, the communication/information provided herein does not constitute a "financial advisory service" within the meaning of the Financial Advisers Act, Chapter 110 of Singapore ("FAA") and therefore, the regulatory requirements and duties that may be owed to a client pursuant to or in connection with the FAA are not applicable to the recipient in connection with this communication. Recipients are advised to seek independent advice from their own professional advisers about the information contained herein.

Hong Kong: This document, may only be made available in Hong Kong by Commerzbank AG, Hong Kong Branch to 'professional investors' within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571) of Hong Kong and any rules made there under, and persons whose ordinary business is to buy or sell shares or debentures.

Japan: This information and its distribution do not constitute and should not be construed as a "solicitation" under the Financial Instrument Exchange Act (FIEA). This information may be distributed from Commerzbank international branches outside Japan solely to "professional investors" as defined in Section 2(31) of the FIEA and Section 23 of the Cabinet Ordinance Regarding Definition of Section 2 of the FIEA. Please note that Commerzbank AG, Tokyo Branch has not participated in its preparation. The instruments recommended in this report cannot be introduced by the Branch. You should contact the Corporate Clients division of Commerzbank AG for inquiries on availability of such instruments.

Australia: Commerzbank AG does not hold an Australian financial services licence. This document is being distributed in Australia to wholesale customers pursuant to an Australian financial services licence exemption for Commerzbank AG under Class Order 04/1313. Commerzbank AG is regulated by Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin) under the laws of Germany which differ from Australian laws.

People's Republic of China (PRC): This document is furnished by Commerzbank AG and is only intended for institutions that are eligible for financial transactions. No-one else may rely on any information contained within this document. Any derivative transactions by PRC persons may only be entered into by PRC financial institutions which are permitted to conduct derivatives business in the PRC and have obtained all necessary regulatory approvals in the PRC.

© Commerzbank AG 2022. All rights reserved. Version 22.02

Commerzbank Offices

Frankfurt	London	New York	Singapore	Hong Kong
Commerzbank AG	Commerzbank AG	Commerz Markets LLC	Commerzbank AG	Commerzbank AG
DLZ - Gebäude 2, Händlerhaus	PO BOX 52715	225 Liberty Street, 32nd floor,	71, Robinson Road, #12-01	15th Floor, Lee Garden One
Mainzer Landstraße 153	30 Gresham Street	New York,	Singapore 068895	33 Hysan Avenue,
60327 Frankfurt	London, EC2P 2XY	NY 10281-1050		Causeway Bay
				Hong Kong
Tel: + 49 69 136 21200	Tel: + 44 207 623 8000	Tel: + 1 212 703 4000	Tel: +65 631 10000	Tel: +852 3988 0988