Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Tuesday 23 April 2019 07:15 am

EUR/USD back below \$1.13

Currency markets have generally adopted a subdued tone over the past week. Of the action that has registered, both the euro and sterling are trading marginally lower against the dollar, which was aided by a strong batch of data last week. This included March retail sales (+1.6% in the month) and weekly jobless claims, which fell to another new record low.

Meanwhile, the euro was hampered by a set of disappointing PMIs on Thursday. The composite index edged down again, while the manufacturing index remains well below the 50 level separating growth from contraction. Elsewhere, sterling was largely unreactive to solid data released over the week.

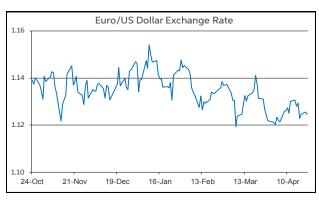
In level terms, the marginally firmer dollar tone sees EUR/USD open this morning back down near the \$1.125 mark, while GBP/ USD is just below the \$1.30 threshold. Elsewhere, EUR/GBP continues to trade around the midpoint of the 86-87p band.

Turning to the week ahead, there is a barren look to the macro calendar on this side of the Atlantic, meaning both the euro and sterling could struggle for direction. Although, we do get some Eurozone survey data, including flash consumer confidence and the German Ifo (both April). The UK Parliament will also reconvene this week, following its Easter recess, meaning Brexit could return somewhat back into focus.

Meanwhile, the highlight of the schedule is the first reading of US Q1 GDP. Growth is forecast to have slowed to a still solid 1.8% in annualised terms, from 2.2%. The same report also contains the Q1 reading of core PCE, the Fed's preferred measure of price pressures, with inflation expected to have held below 2.0%. Overall, the data is unlikely to generate a major dollar impact. Conor Beakey, Economist, AIB

Opening Interest Rates							
		Short Term			Long Term		
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr	
USD	2.375	2.48	2.58	2.75	2.47	2.40	
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.31	-0.11	-0.20	0.05	
GBP	0.75	0.73	0.82	1.10	1.06	1.22	
Equity Indices							
				% Changes			
	Late	Latest Close		Day	End 201	8 to Date	
Dow Jones	26	26511.05		0.18	+1	3.65	
S&P 500	2907.97		+(0.10	+16	5.00	
FTSE 100	74	7459.88		+0.00		+10.88	
DJ Stoxx 50) 34	3499.23		+0.00		+16.59	
ISEQ	65	6540.14		+0.00		+19.35	
Nikkei	22251.23		+(+0.15		+11.17	

Today's Opening Rates				
		% Change		
		Day *	End 2018	
EUR/USD	1.1247	0.07	-1.94	
EUR/GBP	0.8663	0.19	-3.57	
GBP/USD	1.298	-0.09	1.75	
GBP/EUR	1.1537	-0.18	3.71	
USD/JPY	111.88	-0.03	2.12	
EUR/JPY	125.84	0.05	0.10	
* v Previous Day's European Open				
See Next Page for More Rates				







All rates quoted are indicative market rates



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See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

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Opening Levels

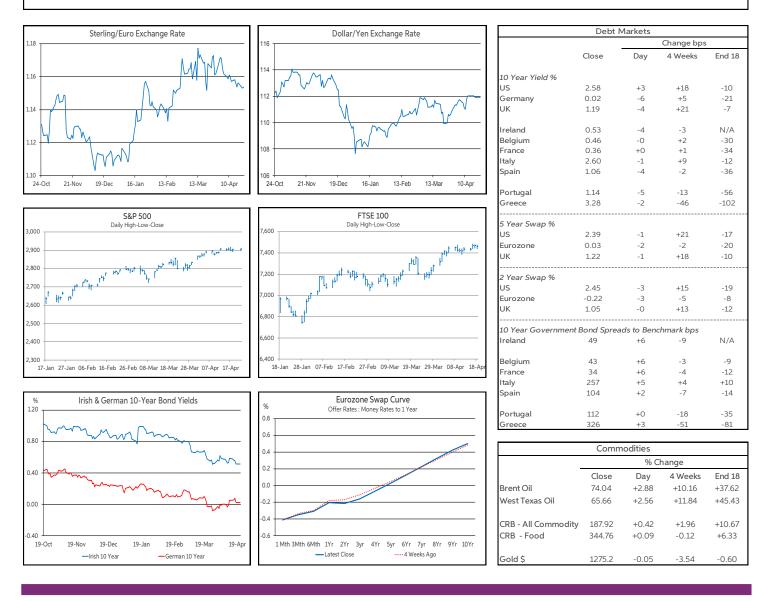
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Eui	0
EUR/GBP	0.8663
EUR/USD	1.1247
EUR/JPY	125.84
EUR/SEK	10.4885
EUR/DKK	7.4656
EUR/NOK	9.567
EUR/CHF	1.1426
EUR/AUD	1.5798
EUR/HKD	8.8224
EUR/CAD	1.5033

Sterling		
GBP/EUR	1.1537	
GBP/USD	1.298	
GBP/CAD	1.735	
GBP/NZD	1.9472	
GBP/JPY	145.22	
GBP/SEK	12.0978	
GBP/DKK	8.6139	
GBP/NOK	11.0392	
GBP/CHF	1.3188	
GBP/AUD	1.8228	

Dollar				
USD/JPY	111.88			
USD/CAD	1.3362			
USD/CHF	1.0158			
USD/CNY	6.7137			
USD/BRL	3.9351			
USD/RUB	63.798			
USD/INR	69.745			
AUD/USD	0.7119			
NZD/USD	0.6666			



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