Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Tuesday 30 April 2019 07:18 am

Eurozone GDP the highlight today

Despite a relatively busy macro calendar, currency markets retained a subdued tone vesterday. Indeed, the highlight of the Eurozone calendar, the EC sentiment indices for April, prompted no reaction in the euro, despite surprising to the downside. The headline index, which fell for a 10th consecutive month, dipped to 104 (f'cast 105), while the industrial confidence sub-index dropped to a 5-year low of -4.1 (f'cast -2.0).

Across the Atlantic, March core-PCE, came in behind expectations (1.6% vs f'cast 1.8%), but went largely unnoticed in currency markets. The same report showed that consumption rose by a very robust 0.7% in the month. Elsewhere, the strong start to the year for US equities continued. While gains were modest on the day, the S&P 500 hit a new record high and is now up 17.4% year-to-date.

In level terms, the main pairs open this morning broadly unchanged from 24 hours previous. EUR/USD is trading below the \$1.12 level, while GBP/USD remains in the lower half of the \$1.29-1.30 band. Meanwhile, EUR/GBP is changing hands near to 86.5p.

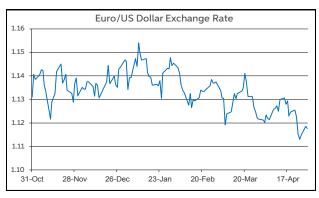
Today, the UK schedule is barren meaning sterling may struggle for direction. In contrast, a packed Eurozone calendar includes the first estimate of Q1 GDP and March unemployment. Quarterly growth is forecast to have picked up to 0.3%, from 0.2%, aided by decent retail sales and trade figures in the first 2 months of the year. Meanwhile, unemployment is expected to have held at 7.8%. In the absence of a major surprise, though, euro impact could be limited.

In the US, the only release of any note is the April reading of Conference Board measure of consumer confidence. The forecast is for sentiment to have improved in the month. However, the data are unlikely to move the dollar.

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	2.49	2.58	2.71	2.36	2.32	
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.31	-0.11	-0.19	0.03	
GBP	0.75	0.73	0.82	1.09	1.03	1.18	
Equity Indices							
		% (Changes			
	Late	Latest Close		Day	End 2018 to Date		
Dow Jones	26	26554.39		0.04	+13.83		
S&P 500	29	2943.03		0.11	+17.40		
FTSE 100	74	7440.66		+0.17		+10.59	
DJ Stoxx 50) 35	3501.94		0.04	+16.68		
ISEQ	64	6453.89		+0.85		+17.78	
Nikkei	22	22258.73		+0.00		+11.21	

Today's Opening Rates				
		% Change		
		Day *	End 2018	
EUR/USD	1.1177	0.17	-2.55	
EUR/GBP	0.8638	0.15	-3.85	
GBP/USD	1.2936	0.01	1.40	
GBP/EUR	1.1573	-0.15	4.01	
USD/JPY	111.42	-0.15	1.70	
EUR/JPY	124.61	0.01	-0.88	
* v Previous Day's European Open				
See Next Page fo	r More Rates			







All rates quoted are indicative market rates

FX Spot Karl Cooke Shane Gargan Enda Homan Equity Options Gary Luff

FX Options Mark Tuite Lenny Hogan Reuters 00353-1-7724018 Phone

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AIBI

Morning Comment John Fahey john.j.fahey@aib.ie

Opening Levels

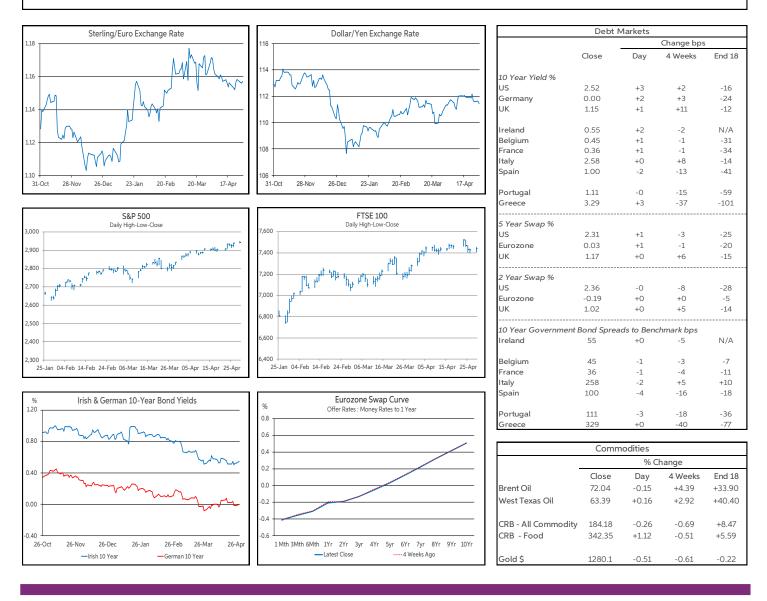
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EUR/GBP	0.8638
EUR/USD	1.1177
EUR/JPY	124.61
EUR/SEK	10.6429
EUR/DKK	7.4653
EUR/NOK	9.6889
EUR/CHF	1.1395
EUR/AUD	1.5884
EUR/HKD	8.7679
EUR/CAD	1.506

Sterling			
GBP/EUR	1.1573		
GBP/USD 1	.2936		
GBP/CAD	1.7431		
GBP/NZD 1	.9428		
001/011	44.16		
	2.3161		
GBP/DKK 8	.6393		
	1.2133		
GBP/CHF	1.3191		
GBP/AUD 1	.8383		

Dollar				
USD/JPY	111.42			
USD/CAD	1.347			
USD/CHF	1.0196			
USD/CNY	6.7412			
USD/BRL	3.9442			
USD/RUB	64.5152			
USD/INR	69.837			
AUD/USD	0.7037			
NZD/USD	0.6657			



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