Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Tuesday 13 August 2019 07:13 am

UK labour market data in focus

Action on currency markets amongst the main pairs yesterday was subdued. A sparse macro-data schedule meant there was little to provide direction. Of the limited moves that did register, sterling opens marginally higher this morning. However, it remains close to its multi-year lows against the dollar and the euro.

Elsewhere, global political uncertainty (Argentina, Hong Kong and Italy) weighed on investor sentiment yesterday. Equities traded lower, with the S&P 500 closing down 1.2%. Bonds also experienced some safe haven demand, with the 10-year US Treasury yield falling by 10bps to 1.64%.

As trading gets underway this morning, on the currency front the very modest support for sterling sees EUR/GBP open just below the 93p level. At the same time, cable (GBP/USD) has moved up from the \$1.20 mark. Meanwhile, EUR/USD continues to trade in a tight range near the \$1.12 threshold.

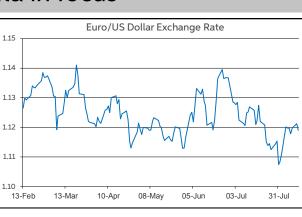
Today, there is little data out to influence the euro. On the political front, uncertainty in Italy continues (Senate due to decide on timeframe for no-confidence vote), though so far there has been no impact on the euro. Meantime, in the US July CPI is due. It is anticipated that lower energy prices continued to contain inflation, with the headline rate forecast at 1.7% (June 1.8%). Barring a major surprise, dollar reaction could be limited.

For sterling, the day features the Q2 labour market bulletin. Employment growth looks to have slowed to just 0.1% q/q, though the jobless rate is forecast to have held at 3.8%. Meanwhile, tight labour conditions are expected to result in underlying wage inflation picking up to a new cycle high of 3.8%. Overall though, the data could offer some marginal support to sterling.

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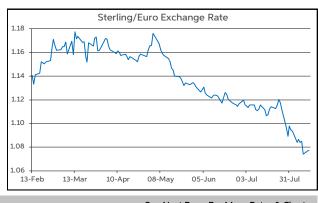
| Т | oday's Oper | ning FX Ra | tes |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|----------|
| | | % C | hange |
| | | Day * | End 2018 |
| EUR/USD | 1.1191 | -0.14 | -2.42 |
| EUR/GBP | 0.9281 | -0.30 | 3.31 |
| GBP/USD | 1.2057 | 0.17 | -5.49 |
| GBP/EUR | 1.0771 | 0.30 | -3.20 |
| USD/JPY | 105.34 | -0.06 | -3.85 |
| EUR/JPY | 117.89 | -0.21 | -6.22 |
| * v Previous Day's E | European Open | | |
| See Next Page for M | lore Rates | | |

| | Opening Interest Rates | | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-------|------------|--------|-------|-------|--|--|
| | | | Short Term | ו | Long | Term | | |
| | Base Rate | 1-Mth | 3-Mth | 12-Mth | 2-Yr | 5-Yr | | |
| USD | 2.125 | 2.20 | 2.18 | 1.99 | 1.55 | 1.41 | | |
| EUR | 0.00 | -0.40 | -0.40 | -0.34 | -0.50 | -0.44 | | |
| GBP | 0.75 | 0.71 | 0.76 | 0.82 | 0.63 | 0.59 | | |
| | | | | | • | | | |









All rates quoted are indicative market rates

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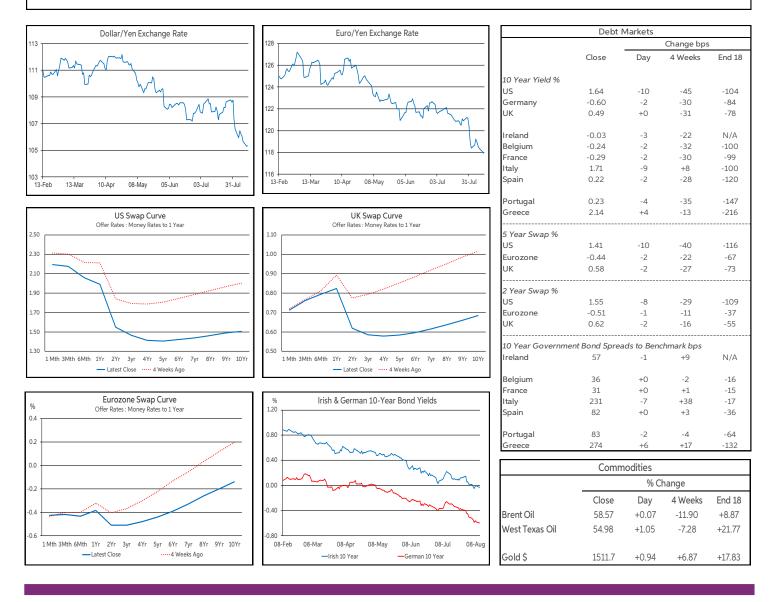
Opening Levels

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| Sterlin | g |
|---------|---------|
| GBP/EUR | 1.0773 |
| GBP/USD | 1.2057 |
| GBP/CAD | 1.5966 |
| GBP/NZD | 1.8688 |
| GBP/JPY | 127.01 |
| GBP/SEK | 11.5384 |
| GBP/DKK | 8.0405 |
| GBP/NOK | 10.7555 |
| GBP/CHF | 1.1712 |
| GBP/AUD | 1.7827 |

| Doll | ar |
|---------|---------|
| USD/JPY | 105.34 |
| USD/CAD | 1.3241 |
| USD/CHF | 0.9715 |
| USD/CNY | 7.065 |
| USD/BRL | 3.9848 |
| USD/RUB | 65.406 |
| USD/INR | 71.1475 |
| | |
| AUD/USD | 0.6762 |
| NZD/USD | 0.6448 |



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