Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Thursday 22 August 2019 07:17 am

Main pairs continue to range trade

Market sentiment shifted again yesterday. Following on from Tuesday's cautious session, there was an improvement in risk appetite. This was reflected in the Euro Stoxx 50 and the S&P 500 finishing the day up 1.3% and 0.8% respectively.

Meanwhile, yesterday's release of the Fed's July meeting minutes had no dollar impact. Markets are instead looking ahead to Chair Powell's speech on Friday for a more up to date insight into the Fed's rate outlook given the recent escalation in trade tensions. Elsewhere, UK PM Johnson's meeting with German Chancellor Merkel proved to be a non-event for sterling.

The lack of moves on currency markets sees the main pairs open this morning broadly unchanged from 24 hours previous. EUR/GBP remains close to the 91.5p mark, while EUR/USD is below the \$1.11 level. Meantime, GBP/USD is in the lower half of \$1.21-1.22.

Turning to the day ahead, there is no data due out that could prompt a move in sterling. However, Brexit related risk remains a possible source of influence for the currency, with PM Johnson due to meet with French President Emmanuel Macron.

In the Eurozone, the ECB's account of its July meeting is due but is unlikely to attract much attention from an FX perspective. However, the August PMIs could be of some significance for the euro, given ongoing concerns about growth in the region. The composite index is forecast to have dipped to 51.2, from 51.5.

Flash August PMIs are also the main release in the US. The forecast is for the composite PMI to have edged down slightly. However, barring a major surprise, dollar impact could be limited. Meantime, the Fed's Jackson Hole symposium gets underway today.

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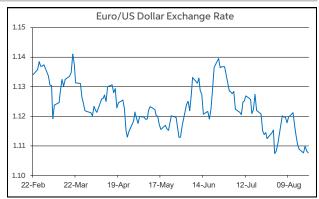
Today's Opening FX Rates				
		% Change		
		Day *	End 2018	
EUR/USD	1.1077	-0.14	-3.42	
EUR/GBP	0.9139	0.12	1.73	
GBP/USD	1.2118	-0.29	-5.01	
GBP/EUR	1.0939	-0.12	-1.70	
USD/JPY	106.3	-0.14	-2.98	
EUR/JPY	117.75	-0.29	-6.33	
* v Previous Day's European Open				
See Next Page for More Rates				

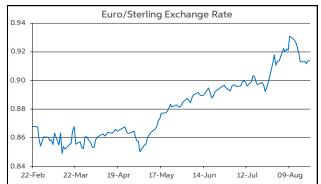
Opening Interest Rates						
		Short Term			Long Term	
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	2.125	2.17	2.15	1.95	1.53	1.40
EUR	0.00	-0.41	-0.42	-0.40	-0.53	-0.49
GBP	0.75	0.71	0.76	0.86	0.69	0.66

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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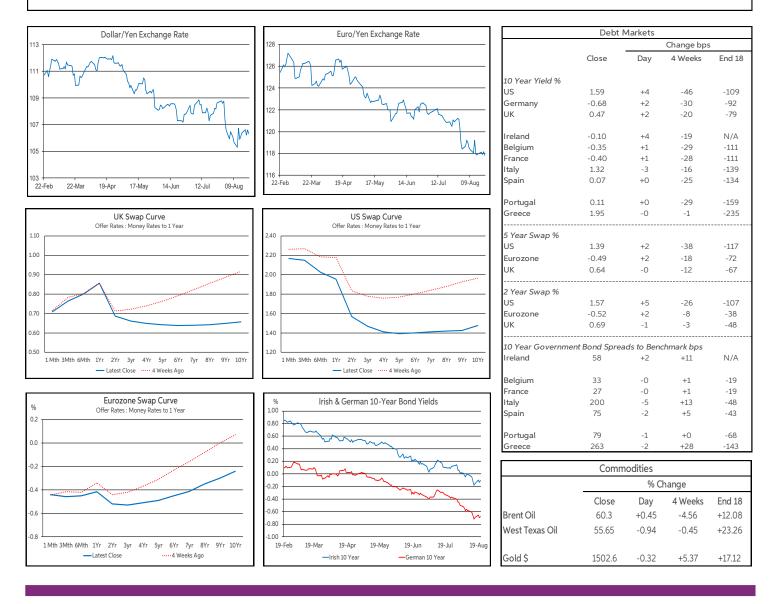


Euro				
EUR/GBP	0.9139			
EUR/USD	1.1077			
EUR/JPY	117.75			
EUR/SEK	10.6753			
EUR/DKK	7.4564			
EUR/NOK	9.9242			
EUR/CHF	1.0879			
EUR/AUD	1.637			
EUR/HKD	8.685			
EUR/CAD	1.4745			

Sterli	ng
GBP/EUR	1.0939
GBP/USD	1.2118
GBP/CAD	1.613
GBP/NZD	1.8984
GBP/JPY	128.81
GBP/SEK	11.6758
GBP/DKK	8.1559
GBP/NOK	10.8549
GBP/CHF	1.1901
GBP/AUD	1.7908
GBP/AUD	1.7908

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Dollar				
USD/JPY	106.3			
USD/CAD	1.3308			
USD/CHF	0.982			
USD/CNY	7.0713			
USD/BRL	4.0257			
USD/RUB	65.825			
USD/INR	71.7			
AUD/USD	0.6765			
NZD/USD	0.6383			



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