Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Wednesday 10 January 2018 07:29 am

Yen sees further support

Financial markets retained their subdued tone yesterday. This was evident in the main equity indices. Both the Euro Stoxx 50 and the S&P 500 were broadly unchanged on the day, though the latter index did close at a new all-time high above 2,750.

Data-wise, there were further indications yesterday that the Eurozone economy had a strong finish to 2017. German industrial production jumped by 3.4% in December (above f'cast +1.8%). Meantime, the eurozone unemployment rate declined further to 8.7% in November, a near nine-year high. However, euro impact from the data was minimal, continuing the recent trend of markets seeming to overlook strong macro data from the currency bloc.

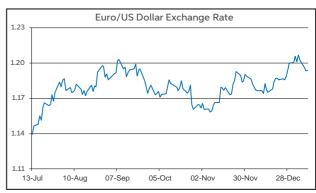
Of the currency moves which did register yesterday, the dollar made some modest gains, continuing to regain ground lost over the end 2017/start 2018 period. However, the currency still remains down by around 1.5% against the euro and sterling versus mid-December. Elsewhere, the yen retained its firmer tone, benefitting from the BoJ's surprise decision to trim its purchases of long-dated bonds as part of its QE programme.

In level terms, EUR/USD moved down into the lower half of the \$1.19-1.20 band, while cable (GBP/USD) edged down towards \$1.35. The firmer yen saw USD/JPY move down to below ¥112, while EUR/JPY fell to around ¥133.5. The EUR/GBP pair continued to trade in a narrow range just above the 88p mark.

Turning to the day ahead, the focus from a data perspective will be on the UK. The schedule there includes industrial production and goods trade data for November. Modest improvements are forecast in both, though sterling impact is likely to be limited. Overall then, we could see FX markets hold a subdued tone today. Dara Turnbull, Economist, AIB

Opening Interest Rates							
		Short Term			Long Term		
1	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr	
USD	1.375	1.55	1.70	2.15	2.18	2.38	
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.33	-0.19	-0.15	0.32	
GBP	0.50	0.50	0.52	0.77	0.83	1.10	
Equity Indices							
		% C		hanges			
	Late	st Close	on	Day	End 201	.7 to Date	
Dow Jones	25385.8		+(+0.41		+2.70	
S&P 500	2751.29		+0.13		+2.91		
FTSE 100	7731.02		+0.45		+0.56		
DJ Stoxx 50	3622.87		+0.18		+3.39		
ISEQ	7178.92		-0.07		+2.00		
Nikkei	23788.2		-0.26		+4.49		

Today's Opening Rates				
		% C	% Change	
		Day *	End 2017	
EUR/USD	1.1934	-0.26	-0.52	
EUR/GBP	0.8829	0.19	-0.61	
GBP/USD	1.3519	-0.40	0.05	
GBP/EUR	1.1324	-0.19	0.61	
USD/JPY	111.89	-0.70	-0.69	
EUR/JPY	133.55	-0.93	-1.21	
* 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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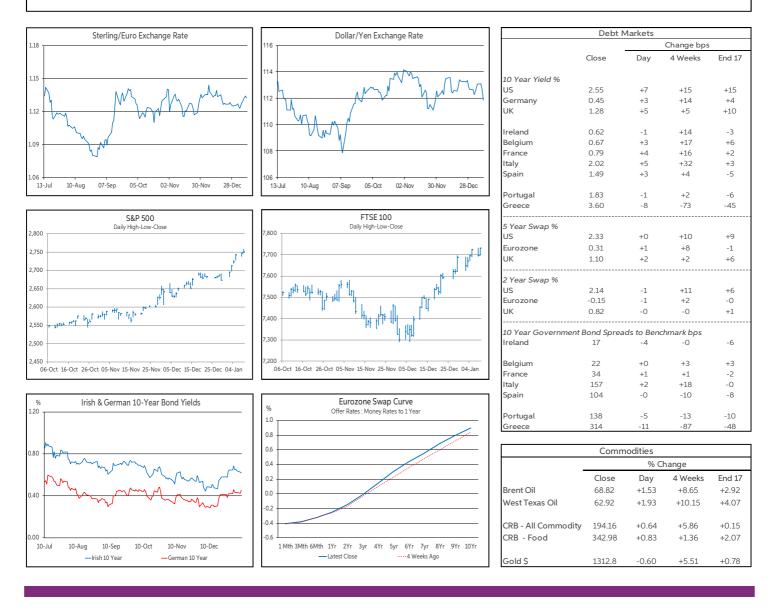


Euro	
EUR/GBP	0.8829
EUR/USD	1.1934
EUR/JPY	133.55
EUR/SEK	9.8202
EUR/DKK	7.4467
EUR/NOK	9.6298
EUR/CHF	1.1729
EUR/AUD	1.5248
EUR/HKD	9.3366
EUR/CAD	1.4872

Sterlin	ng
GBP/EUR	1.1324
GBP/USD	1.3519
GBP/CAD	1.6848
GBP/NZD	1.8831
GBP/JPY	151.28
GBP/SEK	11.1187
GBP/DKK	8.4344
GBP/NOK	10.9076
GBP/CHF	1.3285
GBP/AUD	1.7272

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Dollar				
USD/JPY	111.89			
USD/CAD	1.246			
USD/CHF	0.9826			
USD/CNY	6.5228			
USD/BRL	3.2482			
USD/RUB	56.8765			
USD/INR	63.745			
AUD/USD	0.7826			
NZD/USD	0.7176			



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