Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



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Focus on the ECB this week

The muted action on currency markets last week sees the main pairs open this morning broadly unchanged from last Monday. Of the limited moves to register, the dollar is trading slightly higher, aided by strong data. EUR/USD is changing hands near \$1.12, while GBP/USD is just below \$1.25. Elsewhere, EUR/GBP is operating under the 90p handle, having spent much of last week above it.

Turning to the week ahead, there is little macro-data to influence sterling. The announcement on Tuesday of the winner of the Tory party leadership contest, though, could pose some event risk to the currency. Leading Brexiteer Boris Johnson is the outright favourite to be the next British Prime Minister.

Meantime, the ECB's July policy meeting may impact the euro. While no changes to rates are expected, it will still be an important event. Governing Council members have referenced low inflation as a justification for a near-term easing of policy. Markets will therefore look to see if the ECB lays the groundwork for a rate cut and the possible reintroduction of QE.

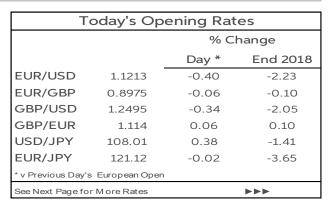
There are also a number of key survey releases out in the Eurozone, including the flash PMIs. The consensus is that weaker service sector activity in July dragged the composite index down. The manufacturing PMI is forecast to have held well below the 50 level. Particularly weak data could weigh on the euro.

Elsewhere, flash July PMIs are also due in the US. It is anticipated that both the manufacturing and service sector indices improved, while continuing to point to subdued activity. We also get the 1st estimate of US GDP for Q2. The unwinding of temporary factors in Q1 is expected to see growth slow to 1.8% in annualised terms. However, barring a major surprise, dollar impact could be limited.

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	2.26	2.26	2.16	1.86	1.82
EUR	0.00	-0.40	-0.38	-0.31	-0.44	-0.27
GBP	0.75	0.72	0.76	0.86	0.73	0.80

Equity Indices				
		% Changes		
	Latest Close	on Day	End 2018 to Date	
Dow Jones	27154.2	-0.25	+16.40	
S&P 500	2976.61	-0.62	+18.74	
FTSE 100	7508.7	+0.21	+11.60	
DJ Stoxx 50	3480.18	-0.08	+15.95	
ISEQ	6267.36	-0.15	+14.37	
Nikkei	21416.79	-0.23	+7.00	









All rates quoted are indicative market rates

See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

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Opening Levels



Euro	
EUR/GBP	0.8975
EUR/USD	1.1212
EUR/JPY	121.14
EUR/SEK	10.535
EUR/DKK	7.4661
EUR/NOK	9.6185
EUR/CHF	1.1029
EUR/AUD	1.5943
EUR/HKD	8.754
EUR/CAD	1.465

Sterling	<u> </u>
GBP/EUR	1.114
GBP/USD	1.2493
GBP/CAD	1.6322
GBP/NZD	1.845
GBP/JPY	134.95
GBP/SEK	11.7365
GBP/DKK	8.3168
GBP/NOK	10.716
GBP/CHF	1.2287
GBP/AUD	1.7762

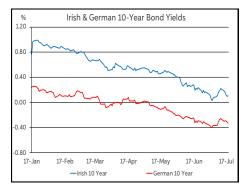
Dollar				
USD/JPY	108.02			
USD/CAD	1.3062			
USD/CHF	0.9834			
USD/CNY	6.8799			
USD/BRL	3.7471			
USD/RUB	63.0521			
USD/INR	69.021			
AUD/USD	0.7033			
NZD/USD	0.6767			

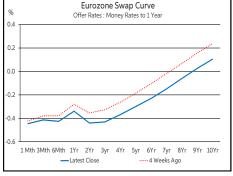












	Debt	Markets			
			Change bps		
	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 18	
10 Year Yield %					
US	2.06	+3	-O	-63	
Germany	-0.33	-2	-4	-57	
UK	0.73	-3	-11	-54	
Ireland	0.11	+1	-13	N/A	
Belgium	-0.01	-1	-12	-77	
France	-0.08	-1	-12	-78	
Italy	1.59	+5	-56	-112	
Spain	0.36	-3	-7	-105	
Portugal	0.44	-1	-12	-126	
Greece	2.11	+1	-38	-219	
US Eurozone UK	1.77 -0.30 0.79	+4 -3 -3	+2 -12 -11	-79 -53 -53	
2 Year Swap %					
US	1.82	+4	+5	-82	
Eurozone	-0.44	+0	-9	-30	
UK	0.72	-2	-13	-44	
10 Year Governme	ent Bond Spre	ads to Ben	chmark bps		
Ireland	43	+2	-9	N/A	
Belgium	31	+0	-8	-21	
France	25	+1	-8	-21	
Italy	192	+6	-52	-56	
Spain	69	-1	-3	-49	
Portugal	77	+1	-8	-70	
Greece	244	+3	-34	-162	

Commodities				
_	% Change			
_	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 18
Brent Oil	62.47	+0.87	-4.19	+16.12
West Texas Oil	55.42	+0.62	-3.37	+22.75
CRB - All Commodity	178.59	+0.64	+0.04	+5.17
CRB - Food	349.65	+2.34	-1.65	+7.84
Gold \$	1425.7	-1.45	+1.87	+11.13

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