Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Friday 27 July 2018 07:29 am

Dollar firmer over last 24 hours

As anticipated, yesterday's ECB meeting provided no surprises. The Governing Council maintained its guidance that interest rates will remain at their current levels "at least through the summer of 2019". Overall then, the Governing Council ECB remains content to take a very cautious approach to tightening policy. The ECB's meeting was somewhat unhelpful for the euro.

In terms of yesterday's schedule, data-wise there were some disappointing US figures. Durable goods orders rose by 1% in June, versus an expected 3% increase. Meantime, the goods trade deficit widened again in June. Despite this, the dollar was on the front foot yesterday. For sterling, the news that the EU had rejected the UK's proposed customs arrangement weighed on the currency.

In level terms, the firmer dollar and modestly softer euro sees EUR/ USD open this morning down in the lower half of the \$1.16-1.17 band. GBP/USD is trading just below \$1.31. Meanwhile, USD/JPY has regained the ¥111 level.

Elsewhere, given the aforementioned market reaction to the ECB and UK/EU negotiations, the EUR/GBP pair has largely traded sideways. Indeed, the pair has spent the last 24 hours confined to a very tight 88.6-88.9p range.

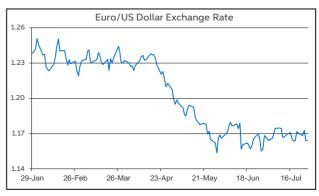
Turning to the day ahead, the highlight is US Q2 GDP. Annualised growth is forecast to have accelerated to 4.1%, from 2% in Q1, likely as a result of stronger consumer spending.

While it is expected, such a result could still help to provide support to the dollar today. However, given the guiet schedule the main currency pairs are unlikely to see much change from their current levels.

Dara Turnbull, Economist, AIB

Opening Interest Rates							
		Short Term			Long Term		
I	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr	
USD	1.875	2.07	2.34	2.82	2.88	2.98	
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.32	-0.18	-0.15	0.31	
GBP	0.50	0.65	0.80	1.04	1.10	1.34	
Equity Indices							
				% Changes			
	Late	st Close	on	Day	End 201	.7 to Date	
Dow Jones	25527.07		+(+0.44		+3.27	
S&P 500	2837.44		-C	-0.30		+6.13	
FTSE 100	7663.17		+0.06		-0.32		
DJ Stoxx 50	3509.26		+3	+1.18		+0.15	
ISEQ	6928		+0.65		-1.57		
Nikkei	22696.98		+0.49		-0.30		

Today's Opening Rates			
		% Change	
		Day *	End 2017
EUR/USD	1.1638	-0.78	-2.98
EUR/GBP	0.8888	0.02	0.06
GBP/USD	1.3091	-0.81	-3.12
GBP/EUR	1.1248	-0.02	-0.06
USD/JPY	111.11	0.28	-1.38
EUR/JPY	129.29	-0.52	-4.36
* 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	FX Options	Mark Tuite Lenny Hogan
	Adrian Flanagan Enda Homan	Equity Options	Gary Luff

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Opening Levels

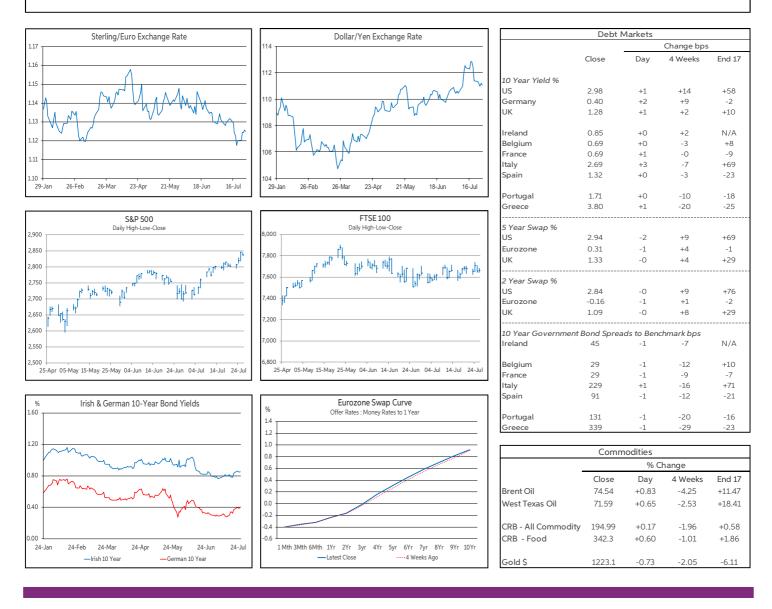
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Euro	
EUR/GBP	0.8888
EUR/USD	1.1638
EUR/JPY	129.29
EUR/SEK	10.2536
EUR/DKK	7.451
EUR/NOK	9.5258
EUR/CHF	1.1578
EUR/AUD	1.5767
EUR/HKD	9.1319
EUR/CAD	1.5206

Sterling		
GBP/EUR	1.1248	
GBP/USD	1.3091	
GBP/CAD	1.7109	
GBP/NZD	1.9325	
GBP/JPY	145.45	
GBP/SEK	11.5324	
GBP/DKK	8.3821	
GBP/NOK	10.7138	
GBP/CHF	1.3024	
GBP/AUD	1.7734	

Dollar		
USD/JPY	111.11	
USD/CAD	1.3068	
USD/CHF	0.9947	
USD/CNY	6.809	
USD/BRL	3.7455	
USD/RUB	62.9002	
USD/INR	68.71	
AUD/USD	0.738	
NZD/USD	0.6773	



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