Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Monday 22 June 2020 07:22 am

Dollar holding the upper hand

There was somewhat of a see-saw action to markets last week, with sentiment switching between 'risk-on' and 'risk off' at various stages. Overall though, the more bullish sentiment carried the week, with most of the main equity indices registering gains of 2-4% for the period. One supportive aspect to risk appetite was the generally better than forecast macro data, especially in relation to consumer spending. This included May retail sales figures from the US and UK. While still early days, the data suggests that economic activity may be rebounding at a quicker than expected pace.

Currency-wise, the action remained confined to relatively tight ranges. Sterling, though, did find itself under some downward pressure. This was despite a more upbeat tone from the BoE regarding the UK economy, as well as the aforementioned upside surprise to May retail sales. The euro also ended the week on the back foot against the dollar, with the greenback in the ascendancy.

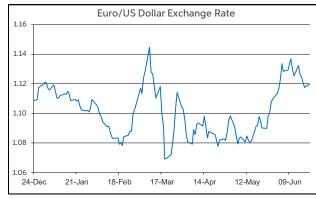
So as the European trading week gets underway this morning, the softer sterling tone is evident in EUR/GBP opening near to the midpoint of 90-91p and GBP/USD below the \$1.24 threshold. Meanwhile, EUR/USD starts the week just below the \$1.12 mark.

Looking ahead to the coming days, a key focus of the macro diary will be the raft of survey data for June. The highlight is the flash PMIs from the US, Eurozone and UK. These will be looked to for further signs/insight that economic activity continues to improve heading into the second half of the year. From an FX perspective, we have not seen recently any significant directional influence from the macro diary. Therefore, unless there are major data surprises, the impact on the main FX pairs may remain relatively limited this week.

John Fahey, Senior Economist, AIB

Today's Opening FX Rates					
		% Change			
		Day *	End 2019		
EUR/USD	1.1196	-0.14	-0.12		
EUR/GBP	0.9046	0.28	7.00		
GBP/USD	1.2377	-0.40	-6.65		
GBP/EUR	1.1051	-0.28	-6.54		
USD/JPY	106.89	0.04	-1.58		
EUR/JPY	119.7	-0.08	-1.75		
* v Previous Day's European Open					
See Next Page for More Rates					

Opening Interest Rates						
		Money Market		Swap Rates		5
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	1-Yr	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	0.125	0.19	0.31	0.27	0.27	0.37
EUR	0.00	-0.51	-0.41	-0.33	-0.35	-0.32
GBP	0.10	0.10	0.17	0.24	0.20	0.29









All rates quoted are indicative market rates

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FX Options Mark Tuite

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Equity Options Gary Luff

Opening Levels

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Eur	0
EUR/GBP	0.9046
EUR/USD	1.1196
EUR/JPY	119.7
EUR/SEK	10.5637
EUR/DKK	7.4556
EUR/NOK	10.7715
EUR/CHF	1.0649
EUR/AUD	1.6317
EUR/HKD	8.6771
EUR/CAD	1.5217

Sterlin	ng
GBP/EUR	1.1051
GBP/USD	1.2377
GBP/CAD	1.6818
GBP/NZD	1.9246
GBP/JPY	132.3
GBP/SEK	11.6725
GBP/DKK	8.2399
GBP/NOK	11.9035
GBP/CHF	1.1768
GBP/AUD	1.8035

Dollar				
USD/JPY	106.89			
USD/CAD	1.3589			
USD/CHF	0.9509			
USD/CNY	7.0788			
USD/BRL	5.3105			
USD/RUB	69.5565			
USD/INR	76.112			
AUD/USD	0.6858			
NZD/USD	0.6427			



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