Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Monday 14 May 2018 07:33 am

Main pairs unchanged

There was some volatility on currency markets last week. The dollar continued to make gains in the first half of the week, aided by hawkish comments from Fed Chair Powell. However, the main dollar pairs eventually finished the week broadly unchanged, as some weaker than expected US CPI inflation data weighed on the currency. Elsewhere, sterling lost some ground in the second half of the week after the BoE sounded a 'cautious' tone at its policy meeting.

Overall, the main FX pairs open this morning broadly unchanged from their positions seven days ago. EUR/GBP is trading close to the 88p mark, while the EUR/USD pair is changing hands near the mid-point of the \$1.19-1.20 band. Meantime, cable (GBP/USD) is trading at \$1.355.

In the week ahead, from a dollar perspective, US retail sales figures for April will garner attention. Weak goods sales were a drag on US growth in Q1. Retail sales are forecast to have recorded a solid increase at the start of Q2. This may help to provide some support to the dollar.

In the UK, the focus will be on a raft of labour market data for Q1 The figures may help to provide some support to sterling. Improvements are expected in employment and underlying wage growth, while the unemployment rate looks set to hold at a 43-year low.

Meanwhile, a quiet Eurozone data calendar may do little to move the euro in the coming days, with German Q1 GDP the pick of the releases. However, markets will be keeping a close eye on political events in Italy, with an 'anti-establishment' government expected to be formed, posing some potential headline risk for the euro.

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Opening Interest Rates						
		Short Term			Long Term	
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	1.625	1.92	2.34	2.77	2.75	2.92
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.33	-0.19	-0.14	0.41
GBP	0.50	0.50	0.65	0.93	1.03	1.35

Equity Indices				
		% Changes		
	Latest Close	on Day	End 2017 to Date	
Dow Jones	24831.17	+0.37	+0.45	
S&P 500	2727.72	+0.17	+2.02	
FTSE 100	7724.55	+0.31	+0.48	
DJ Stoxx 50	3565.52	-0.12	+1.76	
ISEQ	6961.59	-0.43	-1.09	
Nikkei	22865.86	+0.47	+0.44	

Today's Opening Rates % Change Day * End 2017 **EUR/USD** 1.1959 0.39 -0.31 EUR/GBP 0.8823 -0.68 0.19 GBP/USD 1 3552 0.18 0.30 GBP/EUR 1.1328 -0.19 0.68 USD/JPY 109.39 -0.05 -2.91 **EUR/JPY** 130 84 0.35-3 21 v Previous Day's European Open See Next Page for More Rates \triangleright







All rates quoted are indicative market rates

See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

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Opening Levels



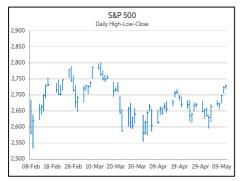
Euro	
EUR/GBP	0.8823
EUR/USD	1.1959
EUR/JPY	130.84
EUR/SEK	10.2738
EUR/DKK	7.4491
EUR/NOK	9.5411
EUR/CHF	1.1956
EUR/AUD	1.585
EUR/HKD	9.3876
EUR/CAD	1.529

Sterling			
GBP/EUR	1.1328		
GBP/USD	1.3552		
GBP/CAD	1.7326		
GBP/NZD	1.9505		
GBP/JPY	148.25		
GBP/SEK	11.6386		
GBP/DKK	8.4394		
GBP/NOK	10.8129		
GBP/CHF	1.3549		
GBP/AUD	1.7959		

Dollar				
USD/JPY	109.39			
USD/CAD	1.2785			
USD/CHF	0.9996			
USD/CNY	6.3393			
USD/BRL	3.5982			
USD/RUB	61.7731			
USD/INR	67.325			
AUD/USD	0.7544			
NZD/USD	0.6946			

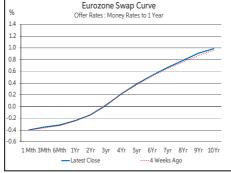












	Debt	Markets		
			Change bps	
	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 17
10 Year Yield %				
US	2.97	+1	+14	+56
Germany	0.56	+1	+5	+14
UK	1.44	+2	+0	+26
Ireland	0.95	-1	+4	N/A
Belgium	0.81	-1	+4	+20
France	0.79	+1	+5	+1
Italy	1.87	-6	+9	-12
Spain	1.26	-4	+4	-28
Portugal	1.67	-3	+3	-22
Greece	3.97	-6	-7	-7
US Eurozone UK	2.90 0.39 1.35	-3 -1 -0	+9 +1 -7	+65 +7 +31
2 Year Swap %				
US	2.73	-3	+6	+65
Eurozone	-0.14	-1	-O	+0
UK	1.02	-1	-14	+22
10 Year Governme	ent Bond Spre	ads to Ben	chmark bps	
Ireland	39	-2	-1	N/A
Belgium	26	-2	-1	+6
France	23	+0	+1	-12
Italy	131	-7	+4	-26
Spain	71	-5	-1	-42
Portugal	112	-4	-2	-36
Greece	341	-7	-11	-21

Commodities				
	% Change			
	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 17
Brent Oil	77.12	-0.45	+6.26	+15.33
West Texas Oil	70.69	-0.94	+4.96	+16.92
CRB - All Commodity	203.56	-0.47	+1.93	+5.00
CRB - Food	354.42	-1.53	+3.72	+5.47
Gold \$	1318.8	-0.23	-2.02	+1.24

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