Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit

Wednesday 14 November 2018 07:22 am

Good news day for sterling

The action on currency markets yesterday saw sterling adopt a firmer tone. The currency was supported by both Brexit and macro newsflow. In terms of Brexit, it was being reported (which was later confirmed) that a special UK cabinet meeting was to be convened today to discuss a draft Brexit agreement that has been reached between the UK and EU. Data-wise, UK labour market updates for Q3 also provided a supportive backdrop for the currency. Underlying wage growth beat expectations and in the process increased at its fastest pace since 2008.

Elsewhere, there was a very guiet US macro agenda, meaning there was little to provide direction to the dollar. Meanwhile, the euro has edged higher against the dollar over the last 24 hours. This is despite no easing in tensions between the Italian government and the EU (Italy resubmitted its budget plans with no major changes). So as trading gets underway this morning, the firmer sterling tone is reflected in EUR/GBP opening below the 87p threshold and GBP/USD up near \$1.30. EUR/USD has regained some ground within the \$1.12-1.13 band.

Today, there is a relatively busy data schedule (incl. UK and US CPI, Eurozone employment, industrial production). Unless the data spring major surprises, their influence on the respective currencies may be limited. A speech by Fed Chair Powell poses some event risk for the dollar. For sterling, Brexit will be very much front and centre today. While it was always likely that the UK and EU would reach an agreement, the key issue/challenge remains UK domestic politics. PM May needs to get the deal through her cabinet, her party and then parliament. The first hurdle is up today, with the special cabinet meeting (scheduled for 2pm). Therefore, sterling is likely to remain ultra sensitive to Brexit developments today.

John Fahey, Senior Economist, AIB

Opening Interest Rates							
		Short Term			Long Term		
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr	
USD	2.125	2.31	2.62	3.13	3.06	3.11	
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.32	-0.15	-0.11	0.35	
GBP	0.75	0.73	0.88	1.15	1.22	1.47	
Equity Indices							
		% Changes					
	Late	Latest Close		Day	End 201	.7 to Date	
Dow Jones	5 25	25286.49		0.40	+2.29		
S&P 500	2	2722.18		-0.15		+1.82	
FTSE 100	70	7053.76		+0.01		-8.25	
DJ Stoxx 50) 32	3224.82		+0.96		-7.97	
ISEQ	63	6138.05		+0.19		-12.79	
Nikkei	21	21846.48		+0.16		-4.03	

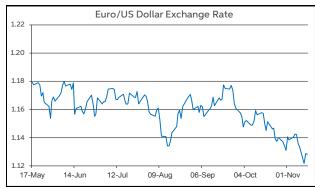
All rates quoted are indicative market rates



FX Options Mark Tuite Lenny Hogan

Equity Options Gary Luff

Today's Opening Rates						
		% C	hange			
		Day *	End 2017			
EUR/USD	1.1286	0.41	-5.92			
EUR/GBP	0.8686	-0.49	-2.22			
GBP/USD	1.2993	0.93	-3.84			
GBP/EUR	1.1509	0.50	2.27			
USD/JPY	113.86	-0.10	1.06			
EUR/JPY	128.53	0.34	-4.92			
* v Previous Day's European Open						
See Next Page for	MoreRates		\blacktriangleright			







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Opening Levels

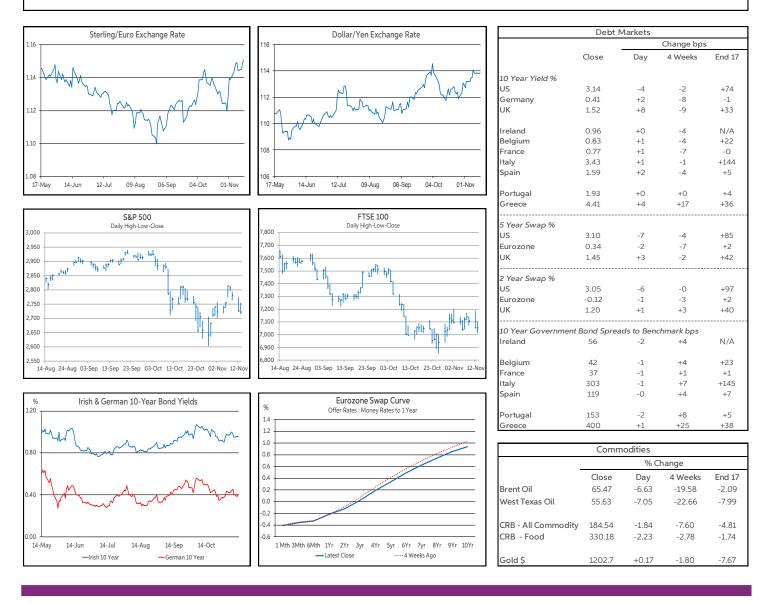
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0.8686
1.1286
120.33
10.2243
7.4617
9.5868
1.1366
1.5643
8.8395
1 4 9 4 4

Sterling				
GBP/EUR	1.1509			
GBP/USD	1.2993			
GBP/CAD	1.7198			
GBP/NZD	1.9155			
GBP/JPY	147.94			
GBP/SEK	11.7713			
GBP/DKK	8.5896			
GBP/NOK	11.0367			
GBP/CHF	1.3082			
GBP/AUD	1.8008			

Dollar					
USD/JPY	113.86				
USD/CAD	1.3239				
USD/CHF	1.0067				
USD/CNY	6.9488				
USD/BRL	3.8031				
USD/RUB	68.025				
USD/INR	72.125				
AUD/USD	0.7214				
NZD/USD	0.678				



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