Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Monday 05 November 2018 07:23 am

Warm start to winter for sterling

Last week saw an improvement in the performance of sterling, with the currency managing to regain some upward momentum. It was helped by a more positive tone to Brexit newsflow (which suggested progress was being made in the exit talks), as well as a hawkish tone coming from the BoE's November policy meeting/ Inflation Report. In level terms, the firmer position of sterling was reflected in EUR/GBP falling back below the 88p mark and GBP/ USD trading up to near the \$1.30 level. Elsewhere, EUR/USD changed hands in a \$1.13-1.145 range during the week.

Looking ahead to this week, it's the turn of the US Federal Reserve to take centre stage from a monetary policy perspective. No policy changes are expected. The Fed has guided that it will hike rates again in December. Therefore, the meeting statement (no press conference this month) will be looked to for further confirmation of this as well as for the Fed's updated views on the economic outlook. Overall, from a dollar viewpoint, the statement may not generate much reaction. The mid-term elections will also be worthy of attention and could cause some volatility for the dollar.

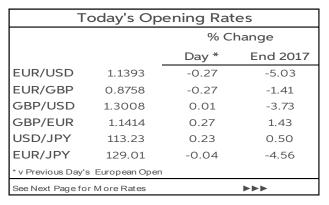
Data-wise, the main highlight this week is the first reading of UK GDP for Q3. The release is expected provide further evidence that the UK economy has regained momentum in recent months. Therefore, at the margin, it may offer some upside support to sterling. Meanwhile, as last week showed again, the currency remains sensitive to Brexit headlines.

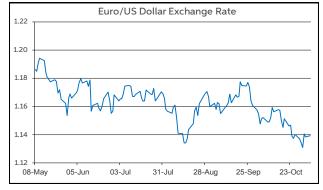
For the euro, this week's schedule is very sparse. Industrial output (Sept) from France and Germany are the only releases of any note. Therefore, given this quiet macro backdrop and barring any major political newsflow (e.g. Italy/EU budget tensions), direction may be driven by the non-euro side of its key pairs this week.

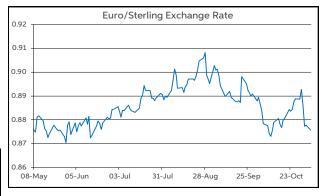
John Fahey, Senior Economist, AIB

Opening Interest Rates						
		Short Term			Long Term	
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	2.125	2.32	2.59	3.10	3.10	3.17
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.32	-0.15	-0.12	0.36
GBP	0.75	0.73	0.83	1.12	1.19	1.44

Equity Indices				
		% Changes		
	Latest Close	on Day	End 2017 to Date	
Dow Jones	25270.83	-0.43	+2.23	
S&P 500	2723.06	-0.63	+1.85	
FTSE 100	7094.12	-0.29	-7.72	
DJ Stoxx 50	3214.41	+0.32	-8.26	
ISEQ	6224.07	+1.10	-11.57	
Nikkei	21898.99	-1.55	-3.80	









All rates quoted are indicative market rates

See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

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Opening Levels

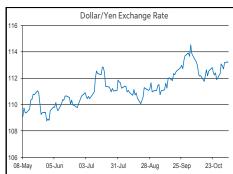


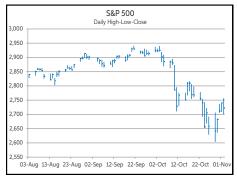
Euro	
EUR/GBP	0.8757
EUR/USD	1.1394
EUR/JPY	129
EUR/SEK	10.3118
EUR/DKK	7.46
EUR/NOK	9.5222
EUR/CHF	1.1431
EUR/AUD	1.5831
EUR/HKD	8.9264
EUR/CAD	1.4933

Sterling			
GBP/EUR	1.1414		
GBP/USD	1.3008		
GBP/CAD	1.705		
GBP/NZD	1.9554		
GBP/JPY	147.29		
GBP/SEK	11.7692		
GBP/DKK	8.5161		
GBP/NOK	10.8724		
GBP/CHF	1.3047		
GBP/AUD	1.8073		

Dollar				
USD/JPY	113.23			
USD/CAD	1.3103			
USD/CHF	1.0032			
USD/CNY	6.9204			
USD/BRL	3.6965			
USD/RUB	66.0593			
USD/INR	73.07			
AUD/USD	0.7196			
NZD/USD	0.665			













	Debt	Markets		
			Change bps	5
	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 17
10 Year Yield %				
US	3.22	+9	-1	+81
Germany	0.43	+4	-13	+1
UK	1.49	+5	-22	+31
Ireland	0.97	+2	-10	N/A
Belgium	0.79	+1	-12	+17
France	0.79	+4	-11	+1
Italy	3.29	-7	-12	+130
Spain	1.56	+2	-1	+1
Portugal	1.87	+0	-5	-3
Greece	4.24	+6	-20	+20
US Eurozone UK	3.15 0.36 1.44	+6 -1 +3	-2 -11 -13	+91 +4 +40
2 Year Swap %				
US -	3.09	+5	+3	+100
Eurozone	-0.13	-2	-6	+2
UK	1.18	+2	-4	+38
10 Year Governme	,		,	
Ireland	54	-2	+3	N/A
Belgium	35	-3	+1	+16
France	36	-O	+2	-0
Italy	286	-11	+1	+128
Spain	112	-2	+12	-O
Portugal	143	-4	+7	-4
Greece	381	+2	-7	+18

Commodities				
	% Change			
	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 17
Brent Oil	72.83	-0.08	-13.46	+8.91
West Texas Oil	63.12	-0.86	-15.00	+4.40
CRB - All Commodity	192.30	+0.34	-3.38	-0.81
CRB - Food	338.97	+0.30	+0.24	+0.87
Gold \$	1233.3	-0.03	+2.50	-5.32

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