Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Politics still driving FX markets

There was some modest volatility on currency markets yesterday, though moves were within relatively narrow ranges. Sterling came under pressure in early trading, as markets continued to express concerns about the on-going Brexit negotiations. However, some encouraging Brexit related headlines later in the day helped sterling to move higher.

Elsewhere, the on-going standoff between the Italian government and the European Commission continued to act as a headwind to the euro. This saw EUR/USD edge down to a two-month low of \$1.143 yesterday.

However, the dollar itself came under some downward pressure heading into yesterday's European close. This coincided with the news that another senior Trump administration official (UN Ambassador) had resigned.

Overall then, the main currency pairs open this morning little changed versus 24 hours previous. The somewhat firmer tone to sterling means EUR/GBP has edged down further to a four-month low at 87.3p. GBP/USD has regained a footing above \$1.31, currently changing hands at \$1.317. EUR/USD is broadly unchanged, continuing to trade close to the \$1.15 mark.

Today, the focus from a data perspective will be on the UK. A busy schedule includes GDP for the three months to August, industrial production and goods trade figures (both August). The GDP release is forecast to show a solid 0.6% rate of growth. Overall then, the UK data could help to create a supportive backdrop for sterling. Elsewhere, quiet calendars in both the Eurozone and US mean there may be little to provide direction to the euro or dollar.

Dara Turnbull, Economist, AIB

Opening Interest Rates							
		Short Term			Long Term		
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr	
USD	2.125	2.29	2.42	2.96	3.05	3.17	
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.32	-0.16	-0.08	0.45	
GBP	0.75	0.72	0.81	1.09	1.22	1.56	
Equity Indices							
	% C		hanges				
	Latest Close		on	on Day		End 2017 to Date	
Dow Jones	26430.57		-(-0.21		+6.92	
S&P 500	2880.34		-0.14		+7.73		
FTSE 100	7237.59		+0.06		-5.86		
DJ Stoxx 50	3321.79		+0.36		-5.20		
ISEQ	6328.4		-0	-0.95		-10.09	
Nikkei	23506.04		+(+0.16		+3.26	

Today's Opening Rates % Change Day * End 2017 EUR/USD 1.1501 0.03 -4 13 EUR/GBP 0.8734 -0.44 -1.68 GBP/USD 1.3165 0 47 -2 57 GBP/EUR 1.1446 0.45 1.71USD/JPY 113.01 -0.04 0.30 EUR/JPY 0 00 129 99 -3 84 v Previous Day's European Open See Next Page for More Rates







All rates quoted are indicative market rates



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Morning Comment John Fahey

john.j.fahey@aib.ie

Opening Levels

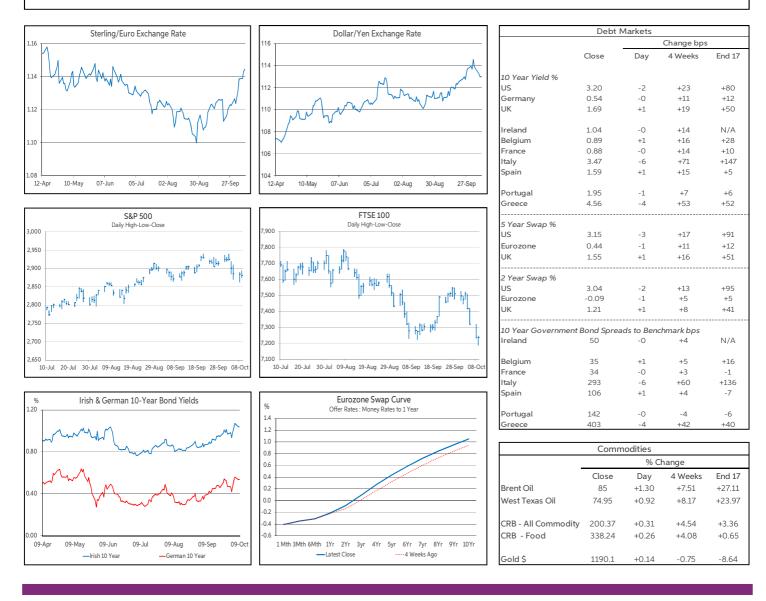
Wednesday 10 October 2018 07:30 am



Euro	
EUR/GBP	0.8734
EUR/USD	1.1501
EUR/JPY	129.99
EUR/SEK	10.4411
EUR/DKK	7.46
EUR/NOK	9.4536
EUR/CHF	1.14
EUR/AUD	1.6153
EUR/HKD	9.0116
EUR/CAD	1.4866

Sterling				
GBP/EUR	1.1444			
GBP/USD	1.3165			
GBP/CAD	1.7023			
GBP/NZD	2.0297			
GBP/JPY	148.78			
GBP/SEK	11.9485			
GBP/DKK	8.5378			
GBP/NOK	10.8233			
GBP/CHF	1.305			
GBP/AUD	1.8489			

Dollar					
USD/JPY	113.01				
USD/CAD	1.2926				
USD/CHF	0.9911				
USD/CNY	6.9186				
USD/BRL	3.7158				
USD/RUB	66.007				
USD/INR	74.15				
AUD/USD	0.712				
NZD/USD	0.6484				



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