Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Tuesday 31 October 2017 07:32 am

Sterling up at the start of busy week

Moves in the main currency pairs were confined to relatively narrow ranges as the week got underway yesterday. This reflected the fact that while there was a busy data calendar (incl. Eurozone EC sentiment, German HICP and US personal consumption), most releases were broadly in line with expectations.

Of the currency moves we did see, sterling edged slightly higher. Cable (GBP/USD) opens this morning back above \$1.32. EUR/GBP has moved down to 88p. Meanwhile, the dollar has managed to hold onto the bulk of its gains against the euro from last week. EUR/USD is trading in the lower half of the \$1.16-1.17 band.

In the day ahead, we get the first reading of Eurozone Q3 GDP. Quarterly growth of 0.5% is anticipated, versus +0.7% in Q2. However, survey indicators, like the PMIs, suggest that an upside surprise cannot be ruled out. Such an outcome could help to provide some support to the euro. Eurozone unemployment is also expected to have ticked lower in September.

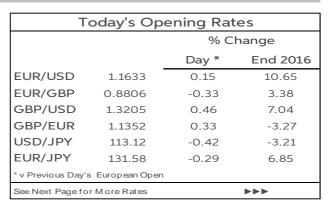
In terms of the calendar for the rest of the week, Thursday's BoE meeting outcome is the main event. The consensus forecast is for the Bank to hike rates from 0.25% to 0.50%. BoE policy tightening may help to lift sterling. Markets will also be looking to the Inflation Report and BoE Governor Carney's press conference for guidance on potential further rate increases over the medium-term.

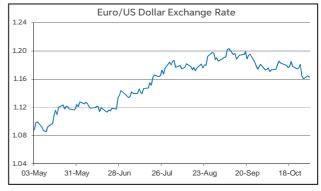
Dollar-wise, non-farm payrolls are expected to bounce back strongly in October (+314k) from September's hurricane impacted decline (-33k), while the unemployment rate looks set to have remained at a 16-year low of 4.2%. This could help the dollar retain its firmer tone. Meanwhile, the Fed also meets this week, though no changes to policy are expected.

Dara Turnbull, Economist, AIB

Opening Interest Rates						
		Short Term			Long Term	
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	1.125	1.24	1.38	1.84	1.82	2.08
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.33	-0.18	-0.20	0.21
GBP	0.25	0.39	0.43	0.77	0.84	1.10

Equity Indices				
		% Changes		
	Latest Close	on Day	End 2016 to Date	
Dow Jones	23348.74	-0.36	+18.15	
S&P 500	2572.83	-0.32	+14.92	
FTSE 100	7487.81	-0.23	+4.83	
DJ Stoxx 50	3662.18	+0.27	+11.29	
ISEQ	6912.11	+0.16	+6.06	
Nikkei	22011.61	-0.00	+15.16	









All rates quoted are indicative market rates

See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

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Opening Levels



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Sterling				
GBP/EUR	1.135			
GBP/USD	1.3202			
GBP/CAD	1.6943			
GBP/NZD	1.9281			
GBP/JPY	149.37			
GBP/SEK	11.0366			
GBP/DKK	8.4467			
GBP/NOK	10.7706			
GBP/CHF	1.3156			
GBP/AUD	1.7196			

Dollar				
USD/JPY	113.12			
USD/CAD	1.2828			
USD/CHF	0.9961			
USD/CNY	6.631			
USD/BRL	3.2887			
USD/RUB	58.155			
USD/INR	64.78			
AUD/USD	0.7678			
NZD/USD	0.6847			
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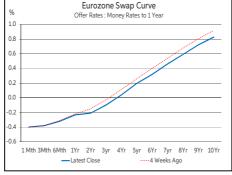












	Debt	Markets			
		Change bps			
	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 16	
10 Year Yield %					
US	2.37	-5	+3	-8	
Germany	0.36	-2	-9	+16	
UK	1.33	-2	+1	+10	
Ireland	0.58	-2	-14	-16	
Belgium	0.61	-2	-11	+10	
France	0.76	-3	+3	+9	
Italy	1.84	-10	-37	+3	
Spain	1.48	-9	-19	+11	
Portugal	2.06	-10	-33	-167	
Greece	5.57	+13	+11	-131	
5 Year Swap %					
US	2.05	-4	+3	+9	
Eurozone	0.20	-2	-6	+12	
UK	1.09	-1	+1	+22	
2 Year Swap %					
US	1.79	-2	+6	+35	
Eurozone	-0.21	-1	-6	-5	
UK	0.82	-1	+1	+22	
10 Year Government Bond Spreads to Benchmark bps					
Ireland	22	+0	-6	-33	
Belgium	25	-O	-2	-7	
France	40	-1	+12	-7	
Italy	148	-8	-28	-13	
Spain	112	-7	-10	-5	
Portugal	170	-8	-24	-183	
Greece	521	+15	+20	-147	

Commodities					
_	% Change				
_	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 16	
Brent Oil	60.9	+0.76	+8.52	+7.18	
West Texas Oil	54.11	+0.35	+6.96	+0.67	
CRB - All Commodity	187.53	+0.34	+3.66	-2.59	
CRB - Food	346.25	+1.65	+4.89	+2.21	
Gold \$	1276.6	+0.20	+0.40	+10.80	

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