Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit

Wednesday 23 September 2020 07:26 am

Dollar hits two month highs

Markets remained in a cautious mood on Tuesday, though equity markets recovered some ground following sharp loses at the start of the week. On currency markets, the firmer dollar tone persisted. This is reflected in the euro moving below the \$1.17 support level for the first time since the end of July.

In level terms, EUR/USD opens this morning below \$1.17. Meanwhile EUR/GBP is changing hands just below 92p. Meantime, cable (GBP/USD) is operating at the \$1.27 mark, having fallen to \$1.268 in early morning trading. Sterling has not been below \$1.27 since the end of July.

The dollar's strength is largely due to its safe-haven status as the world's most liquid currency. As concerns over rising Covid case numbers in Western Europe and the imposition of stricter lockdown weigh on investor sentiment, the dollar is strengthening.

A busy macro calendar sees the release of key survey data in the Eurozone, UK and the US with Septembers flash PMIs due. Markets will be looking to the data to see if the recovery in activity continued at the end of the third guarter following a strong rebound over the summer. Already this morning, the German measure of consumer sentiment printed below expectations.

In the Eurozone, the PMIs are projected to remain close to their August levels, having fallen back in the month. In the UK, both the services and manufacturing PMIs are expected to pull back as they were at elevated levels in August, but should remain solidly expansionary. In the US, the surveys are forecast to remain solid, but to fall slightly.

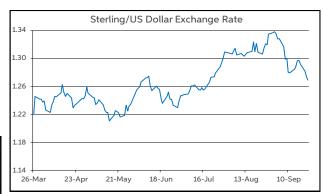
Daniel Noonan, Economist, AIB

Today's Opening FX Rates					
		% Change			
		Day *	End 2019		
EUR/USD	1.168	-0.74	4.19		
EUR/GBP	0.9204	0.29	8.87		
GBP/USD	1.269	-1.01	-4.29		
GBP/EUR	1.0863	-0.29	-8.15		
USD/JPY	105.12	0.57	-3.21		
EUR/JPY	122.8	-0.17	0.80		
* v Previous Day's European Open					
See Next Page for More Rates					

Opening Interest Rates						
		Money Market		Swap Rates		
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	1-Yr	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	0.125	0.15	0.22	0.20	0.23	0.34
EUR	0.00	-0.53	-0.51	-0.48	-0.49	-0.42
GBP	0.10	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.17









All rates quoted are indicative market rates

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See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

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Opening Levels

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Eu	ro
EUR/GBP	0.9204
EUR/USD	1.168
EUR/JPY	122.79
EUR/SEK	10.4394
EUR/DKK	7.443
EUR/NOK	10.9736
EUR/CHF	1.0765
EUR/AUD	1.6399
EUR/HKD	9.0508
EUR/CAD	1.5573

Sterling		
GBP/EUR	1.0862	
GBP/USD	1.269	
GBP/CAD	1.6919	
GBP/NZD	1.9227	
GBP/JPY	133.4	
GBP/SEK	11.3407	
GBP/DKK	8.085	
GBP/NOK	11.923	
GBP/CHF	1.1686	
GBP/AUD	1.7817	

Dollar				
USD/JPY	105.12			
USD/CAD	1.3332			
USD/CHF	0.9215			
USD/CNY	6.7922			
USD/BRL	5.4714			
USD/RUB	76.1657			
USD/INR	73.615			
AUD/USD	0.712			
NZD/USD	0.6596			



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