

## Dollar ended last week on the defensive

Throughout last week, a slew of key data releases, monetary policy related newsflow, ongoing geopolitical tensions and developments regarding US trade policy, all influenced investor sentiment. Most notably, on Friday, the US Supreme Court ruled that most US tariffs were illegal. However, President Trump responded by announcing a new 15% universal tariff rate, under different legislation.

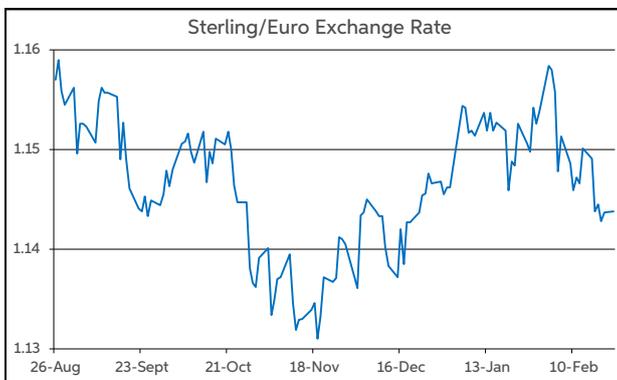
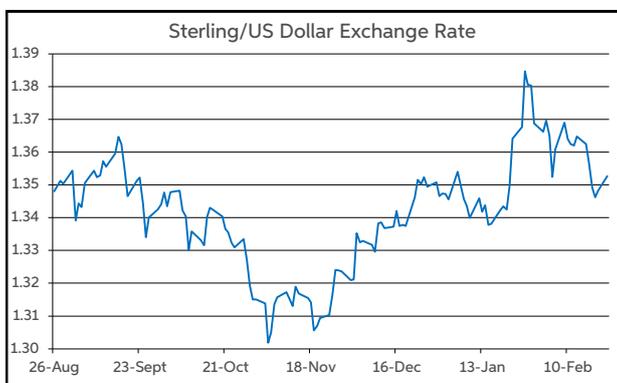
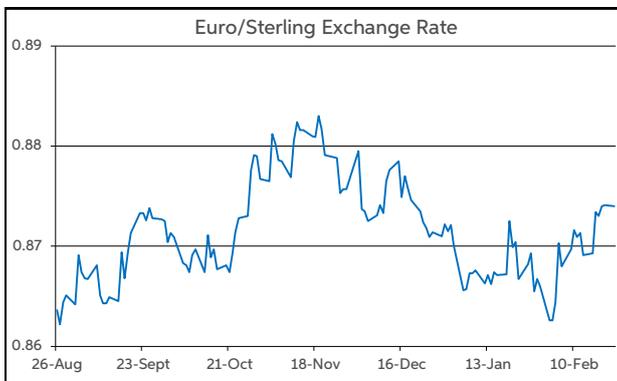
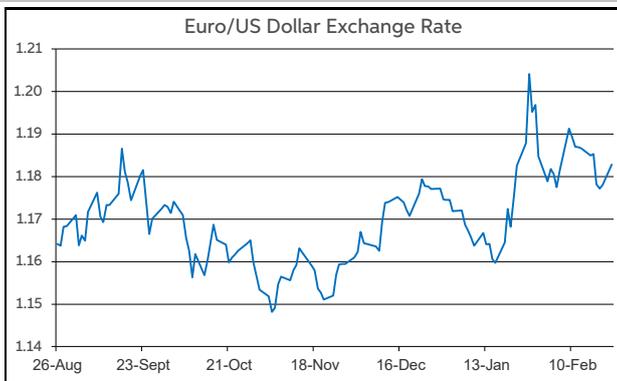
Data-wise, US GDP rose by less than forecast in Q4, partly due to the government shutdown. However, inflation was stronger than expected in December, with core-PCE rising to 3.0%. In the UK, data last week indicate that the labour market remained weak in Q4, and that inflation slowed only slightly in January. Encouragingly though, retail sales and the public finances had a very strong start to 2026.

Against that backdrop, BoE external MPC member Mann sounded somewhat dovish last week. She noted that rising unemployment is “very much of a concern” and that inflation should drop to circa 2% in the near-term. In contrast, the Fed meeting minutes and remarks from official were skewed in the hawkish direction. At the same time, talks between the US and Iran were also under the market spotlight. Negotiations are due to resume this Thursday.

Amid all the noise, the Euro Stoxx 50 and the S&P 500 gained 2.4% and 1.1%, on the week. Meantime, oil prices rose by circa 4%, albeit Brent crude is currently off its peak, near \$71 per barrel. On the currency front, the dollar was in the ascendancy throughout the week, but it handed back most of its gains on Friday. EUR/USD opens in the lower half of \$1.18-1.19. EUR/GBP remains above 87p.

This week, the data calendar is much quieter on both sides of the Atlantic. A raft of sentiment indicators are the main releases of note. Meanwhile, the fall out from changes in US trade policy and the aforementioned US-Iran talks will remain in focus.

**Daniel Noonan, Economist, AIB**



Today's Opening FX Rates			
		% Change	
		Day *	End 2025
EUR/USD	1.1828	0.63	0.71
EUR/GBP	0.874	-0.01	0.29
GBP/USD	1.3527	0.62	0.40
GBP/EUR	1.1434	0.01	-0.29
USD/JPY	154.31	-0.62	-1.49
EUR/JPY	182.55	-0.01	-0.78

\* v Previous Day's European Open  
See Next Page for More Rates

	Opening Interest Rates					
	Base Rate	Money Market			Swap Rates	
		1-Mth	3-Mth	1-Yr	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	3.63	3.66	3.67	3.45	3.56	3.61
EUR	2.00	1.94	2.02	2.15	2.19	2.43
GBP	3.75	3.71	3.58	3.42	3.66	3.84

All rates quoted are indicative market rates

See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

FX Spot	Karl Cooke Shane Gargan	FX Options	Mark Tuite	Reuters Phone	AIBG.I 00353-1-7724018	Morning Comment	John Fahey john.j.fahey@aib.ie
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# Opening Levels

Monday 23 February 2026  
06:46 am



## Euro

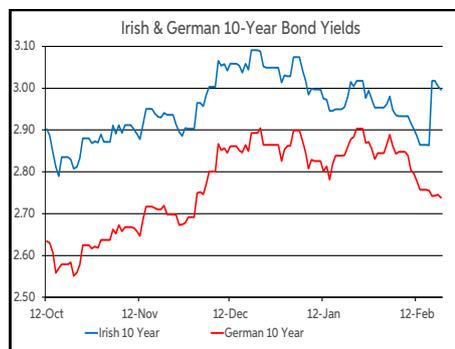
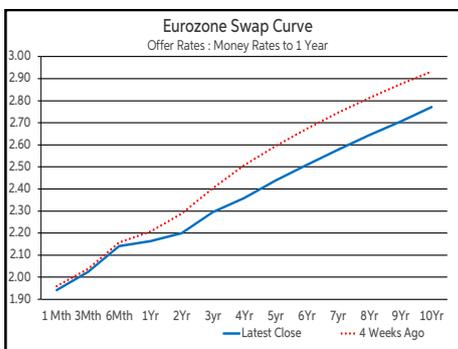
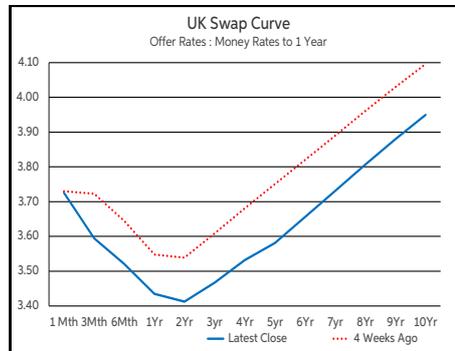
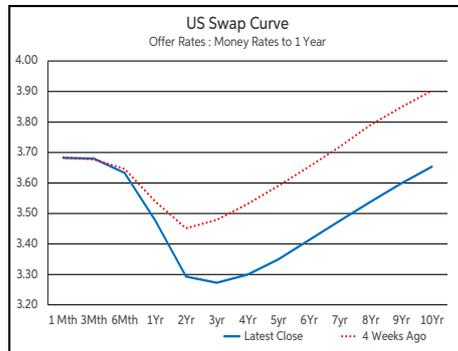
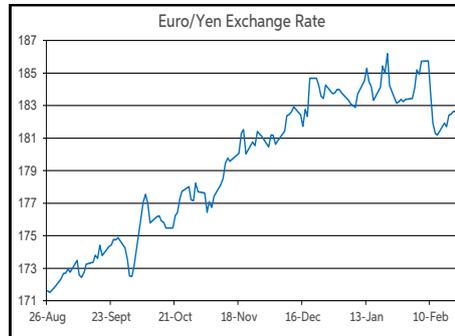
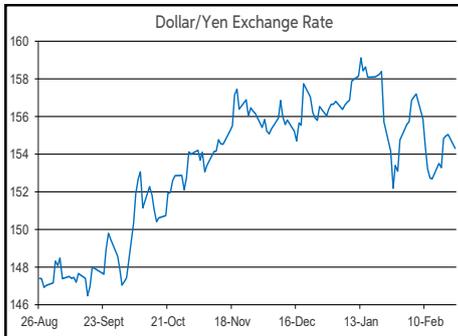
EUR/GBP	0.874
EUR/USD	1.1828
EUR/JPY	182.55
EUR/SEK	10.6714
EUR/DKK	7.471
EUR/NOK	11.242
EUR/CHF	0.9129
EUR/AUD	1.6707
EUR/HKD	9.2439
EUR/CAD	1.6161

## Sterling

GBP/EUR	1.1434
GBP/USD	1.3527
GBP/CAD	1.8486
GBP/NZD	2.259
GBP/JPY	208.76
GBP/SEK	12.2042
GBP/DKK	8.5437
GBP/NOK	12.8596
GBP/CHF	1.0445
GBP/AUD	1.9108

## Dollar

USD/JPY	154.33
USD/CAD	1.3664
USD/CHF	0.7718
USD/CNY	6.908
USD/BRL	5.1763
USD/RUB	76.9
USD/INR	90.764
AUD/USD	0.7079
NZD/USD	0.5987



Debt Markets				
	Close	Change bps		
		Day	4 Weeks	End 25
<b>10 Year Yield %</b>				
US	4.09	+1	-15	-7
Germany	2.74	-1	-16	-12
UK	4.36	-2	-17	-12
<b>5 Year Swap %</b>				
US	3.62	-1	-20	-11
Eurozone	2.43	-0	-16	-13
UK	3.84	+0	-17	-6
<b>2 Year Swap %</b>				
US	3.55	+2	-13	-2
Eurozone	2.19	+2	-9	-6
UK	3.65	+1	-14	-8
<b>10 Year Government Bond Spreads to Benchmark bps</b>				
Ireland	26	-0	+14	+9
Belgium	39	-1	-2	-9
France	56	-1	-3	-13
Italy	61	+0	-0	-4
Spain	41	-1	+5	-2
Portugal	35	-1	-1	+5
Greece	61	-1	+12	-1

Commodities				
	Close	% Change		
		Day	4 Weeks	End 25
Brent Oil	71.76	+0.14	+8.93	+17.93
West Texas Oil	71.65	-0.17	-1.90	-1.27
Gold \$	5103.5	+2.09	+2.43	+18.30

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