Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit

Monday 15 January 2024 07:50 am

UK CPI and earnings growth in focus this week

Despite the release of slightly stronger than anticipated US CPI inflation data last week, there was a marked softening in US market rate expectations, of around 30bps. The softening in rates was compounded on Friday, by weaker than expected US producer price inflation. Futures contracts pricing now suggests that the Fed will cut rates by circa 165bps this year, starting in March. Meantime, UK and Eurozone futures contracts softened by 5bps last week.

Amid the softening in market rate expectations, short-dated bond yields moved lower across the board. 2-year UK Gilt and German Bund yields declined by 5bps, with the 2-year US Treasury yield falling by over 20bps. Meantime, equity markets moved higher on both sides of the Atlantic. The S&P 500 gained 1.8% on the week, while the Euro Stoxx 50 rose by 0.4%. Elsewhere, oil prices rose by 1.0%, amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East. Brent crude is above \$78 per barrel.

Currency-wise, the main FX pairs were confined to tight trading ranges. Overall, the dollar was marginally weaker. At the same time, sterling was modestly firmer. In the second half of the week, the yen recovered somewhat, having initially been under pressure.

In level terms, EUR/USD opens today close to the halfway mark of \$1.09-1.10. EUR/GBP is operating just below 86p. Meanwhile, GBP/USD is changing hands near the midpoint of \$1.27-1.28.

This week, the main focus of a busy UK macro calendar will be average earnings growth (Nov) and CPI inflation (Dec). Both metrics are projected to ease further. In the US, retail sales and industrial production data (both Dec) are due. The highlight of a sparse Eurozone schedule will be the December ECB meeting minutes. **Daniel Noonan, Economist, AIB**

Today's Opening FX Rates					
		% Change			
		Day *	End 2023		
EUR/USD	1.0954	-0.18	-0.74		
EUR/GBP	0.8595	0.02	-0.84		
GBP/USD	1.2743	-0.23	0.11		
GBP/EUR	1.1629	-0.02	0.85		
USD/JPY	145.43	0.13	3.10		
EUR/JPY	159.32	-0.05	2.37		
* v Previous Day's European Open					
See Next Page for More Rates					

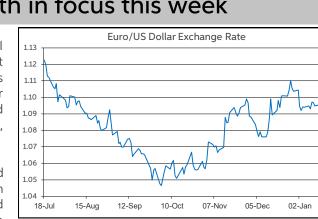
Opening Interest Rates						
		Money Market		Swap Rates		5
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	1-Yr	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	5.38	5.45	5.58	4.93	4.29	3.84
EUR	4.50	3.89	3.93	3.50	2.90	2.57
GBP	5.25	5.19	5.19	4.75	4.38	3.86

All rates quoted are indicative market rates

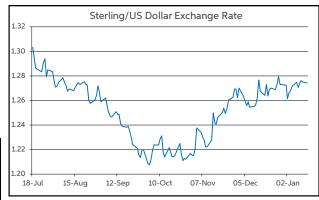
FX Spot Karl Cooke Shane Gargan

FX Options

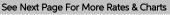
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Opening Levels

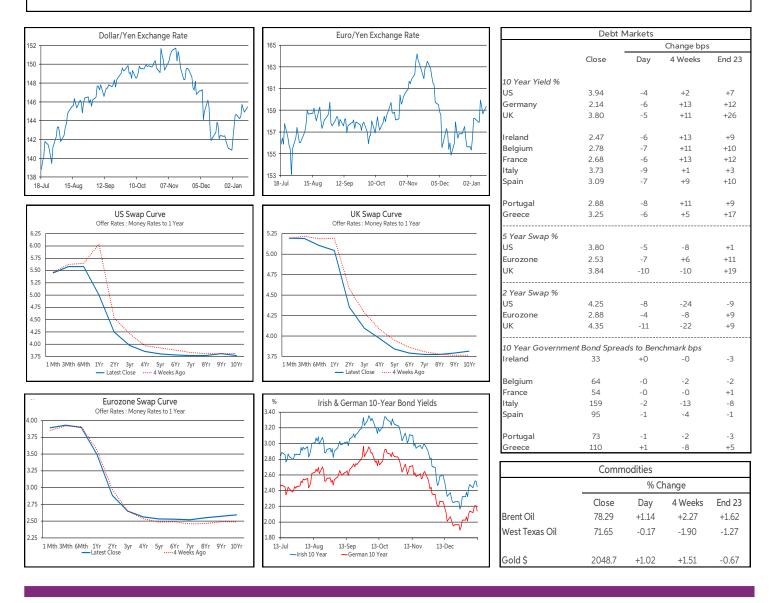
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Eur	0
EUR/GBP	0.8595
EUR/USD	1.0954
EUR/JPY	159.32
EUR/SEK	11.266
EUR/DKK	7.4576
EUR/NOK	11.2992
EUR/CHF	0.9354
EUR/AUD	1.642
EUR/HKD	8.5653
EUR/CAD	1.4688

Sterling			
GBP/EUR	1.1629		
GBP/USD	1.2743		
GBP/CAD	1.7086		
GBP/NZD	2.0519		
GBP/JPY	185.32		
GBP/SEK	13.1083		
GBP/DKK	8.6729		
GBP/NOK	13.141		
GBP/CHF	1.0881		
GBP/AUD	1.9105		

Dollar					
USD/JPY	145.43				
USD/CAD	1.3407				
USD/CHF	0.8538				
USD/CNY	7.1735				
USD/BRL	4.856				
USD/RUB	87.82				
USD/INR	82.853				
AUD/USD	0.6669				
NZD/USD	0.6208				



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