

Highlights in the Foreign Exchange Market:

- US equity indices closed in positive territory on Friday despite a US government shutdown. The S&P and Nasdaq were both elevated by 0.44% and 0.55%, while US Treasuries climbed to a 3 and a half year high. Asian stock markets are trading mixed today as investors remained vigilant on political developments in the US. The Nikkei is currently down by 0.21%, trading at 23,758.42.
- On the currency front, the dollar index is flat today at 90.656 and the single currency slightly edged up on rising prospects of a coalition deal in Germany. The Japanese yen also remained flat today at 110.80.
- In China, the economy grew faster than expected in the fourth quarter of 2017, as an export recovery helped the country post its first annual acceleration in growth in seven years, defying concerns that intensifying curbs on industry and credit would hurt expansion. Growth for the 2017 full year picked up to 6.9% year-on-year, the first annual acceleration for the economy since 2010 beating expectations. While economists believe fundamentals will remain intact in 2018, some downside risks remain. Risks include more forceful US trade restrictions on Chinese exports, higher borrowing costs, and an increase in environmental regulations that has hurt the industrial sector in many parts of the country. However, the data remains optimistic allowing policymakers some leeway to cut debt and pollution in older industries without stunting growth.

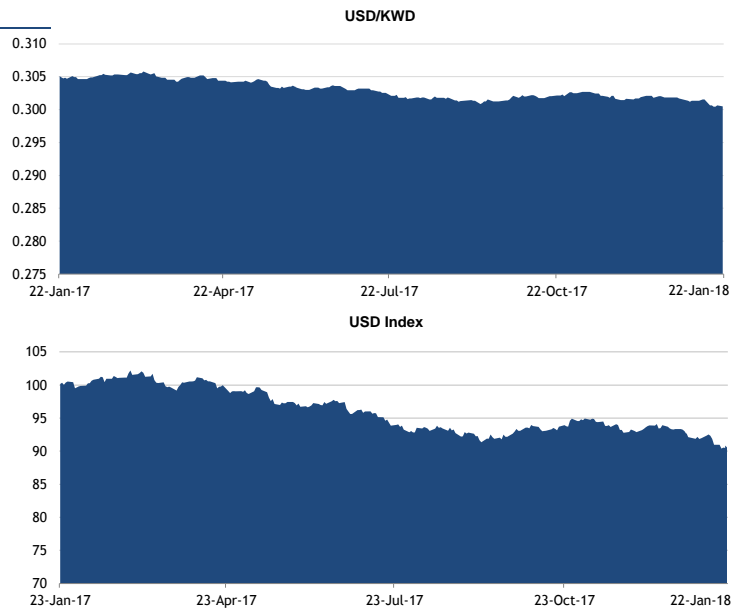


Chart Points and Other Technical Input

CCY	2nd Support	1st Support	Spot	1st Resistance	2nd Resistance
EUR	1.2120	1.2170	1.2221	1.2270	1.2320
GBP	1.3755	1.3815	1.3864	1.3910	1.3955
JPY	109.85	110.30	110.78	111.35	111.85
CHF	0.9530	0.9580	0.9630	0.9680	0.9730

Major Currencies

CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %	CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %
EUR/USD	1.2220	1.95	EUR/GBP	0.8818	(0.73)
GBP/USD	1.3849	2.63	GBP/JPY	153.54	0.99
USD/JPY	110.76	(1.69)	EUR/JPY	135.41	0.23
USD/CHF	0.9628	(1.21)	EUR/CHF	1.1769	0.72

Major Crosses

Brief Technical Commentary

The EUR/USD pair moved up to the 1.2295 level during Friday's trading session and currently trading at 1.2221. EUR Resistance is at (1.2320-1.2340) any break above targets 1.2535. The pair is currently Bullish.

The USD/JPY pair moved down to the 110.48 level during Friday's trading session and currently trading at 110.78. USD/JPY Resistance is at (111.65-111.85) any break above targets 112.80 and Support is at (109.65-109.85) any break below targets 108.50. The pair is currently Neutral.

Local & Global Rates

CCY	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
KWD	1.44	1.69	1.88	2.13	2.38
USD	1.47	1.56	1.74	1.93	2.23
EUR	-0.42	-0.40	-0.38	-0.33	-0.26
GBP	0.48	0.50	0.52	0.58	0.78
CHF	-0.81	-0.80	-0.74	-0.64	-0.53
AUD	1.80	1.75	1.93	2.05	2.00

Economic Events

Date	Country	Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous
23-Jan-18	JPY	BoJ Monetary Policy Statement			
23-Jan-18	EUR	German ZEW Economic Sentiment		17.8	17.4
24-Jan-18	EUR	Flash Manufacturing PMI		60.4	60.6
24-Jan-18	EUR	Flash Services PMI		56.5	56.6
24-Jan-18	ALL	World Economic Forum			
24-Jan-18	GBP	Average Hourly Earnings		2.5%	2.5%
25-Jan-18	EUR	ECB Monetary Policy Statement			
26-Jan-18	GBP	Preliminary GDP q/q		0.4%	0.4%
26-Jan-18	USD	Advance GDP q/q		2.3%	2.1%
26-Jan-18	USD	Durable Goods Orders		06%	-0.1%

Government Yields

Country	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	1.77	2.06	2.44	2.65	2.92
Germany	-0.71	-0.61	-0.16	0.57	1.32
United Kingdom	0.40	0.56	0.85	1.34	1.84
Japan	-0.15	-0.14	-0.09	0.07	0.82

Commodities

Index	Last Price	% Change	Index	Last Price	Change
Kuwait Oil	65.74	(0.08)	Dow Jones	26,071.72	53.91
Brent	68.71	(0.03)	Nikkei 225	23,776.97	(31.09)
West Texas	63.33	(0.16)	S&P 500	2,810.30	12.27
Gold	1,331.94	0.03	KuwaitSE	6,611.66	8.36

All information has been sourced from Reuters

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