

Highlights in the Foreign Exchange Market:

- Consumer confidence in the US fell in January to its weakest level since July 2017 from 126.6 to 120.2. Missing expectations of a drop to 124, the measure gauging consumer expectations mirrored American's weakening views on current conditions. Though the figure had recently hit an 18-year high, it appears that the five-week government shutdown, continuing trade tensions with China, and major swings in US stocks have taken their toll on confidence. During the shutdown alone the index fell 7.8 points, leading many to believe the drop is due to a "shock event" which leads to temporary results. On the bright side, with the shutdown over for now and financial markets stabilizing, a rebound in confidence may be seen in the months ahead.
- Looking at equities, US stocks climbed towards their biggest monthly rally in more than 3 years with technology shares leading the way. The S&P 500 Index hit an eight week high as both General Electric and Facebook surged more than 10% due to strong quarterly results. Signals from the Fed that it would be more "patient" on interest-rate hikes helped ease fears of further monetary tightening. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite gained 9.74%, mainly boosted by Facebook as the company soared 13% after reporting record profits. Twitter rose more than 2%, and Amazon was up 2.2%, all due to the group's earnings reports. The S&P 500 is up 7.9% for the month, representing an impressive rebound from the previous month's 9.8% fall.

US Consumer Confidence
3 Year Performance



S&P 500
2 Month Performance



Chart Points and Other Technical Input

CCY	2nd Support	1st Support	Spot	1st Resistance	2nd Resistance
EUR	1.1250	1.1350	1.1454	1.1550	1.1650
GBP	1.2885	1.2985	1.3083	1.3185	1.3290
JPY	107.50	108.55	109.45	110.50	111.55
CHF	0.9750	0.9845	0.9955	1.0050	1.0155

Major Currencies

CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %	CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %
EUR/USD	1.1454	(0.13)	EUR/GBP	0.8756	(2.62)
GBP/USD	1.3083	2.59	GBP/JPY	143.17	2.24
USD/JPY	109.48	(0.71)	EUR/JPY	125.44	(0.63)
USD/CHF	0.9955	1.44	EUR/CHF	1.1405	1.34

Major Crosses

Brief Technical Commentary

EUR/USD: The pair moved up to the 1.1488 level during Friday's trading session and closed the week at 1.1454. EUR/USD Support is at (1.1215-1.1250) any break below would take the pair to 1.1140. Short term and medium term outlook are Neutral.

USD/JPY: The pair moved up to the 109.55 level during Friday's trading session and closed the week at 109.48. USD/JPY Support is at (107.50-108.55) any break below targets 106.75. Short term and medium term outlook are Neutral.

Local & Global Rates

CCY	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
KWD	1.94	2.31	2.56	2.81	3.06
USD	2.41	2.51	2.73	2.79	2.96
EUR	-0.45	-0.42	-0.34	-0.30	-0.17
GBP	0.70	0.73	0.91	1.03	1.17
CHF	-0.81	-0.79	-0.71	-0.65	-0.52
AUD	2.05	1.93	2.15	2.26	2.30

Economic Events

Date	Country	Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous
4-Feb-19	AUD	Retail Sales m/m		0.0%	0.4%
4-Feb-19	AUD	RBA Rate Statement			
5-Feb-19	USD	ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI		57.0	57.6
7-Feb-19	NZD	Employment Change q/q		0.3%	1.1%
7-Feb-19	NZD	Unemployment Rate		4.1%	3.9%
7-Feb-19	USD	Fed Chair Powell Speaks			
7-Feb-19	GBP	BOE Inflation Report			
7-Feb-19	GBP	Monetary Policy Summary			
8-Feb-19	CAD	Employment Change			9.3K
8-Feb-19	CAD	Unemployment Rate			5.6%

Government Yields

Country	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	2.55	2.50	2.50	2.68	3.02
Germany	-0.56	-0.58	-0.36	0.16	0.77
United Kingdom	0.76	0.75	0.88	1.24	1.74
Japan	-0.19	-0.18	-0.18	-0.03	0.60

Commodities

Index	Last Price	% Change	Index	Last Price	% Change
Kuwait Oil	61.95	1.41	Dow Jones	25,063.89	0.26
Brent	62.30	(0.03)	Nikkei 225	20,788.39	0.07
West Texas	55.24	(0.18)	S&P 500	2,706.53	0.09
Gold	1,317.93	(0.20)	KuwaitSE	5,211.63	0.05

All information has been sourced from Reuters.

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