

#### Highlights in the Foreign Exchange Market:

- Global equity markets have bounced back broadly as investors saw hope for both progress at Sino-U.S. trade talks and more policy stimulus from major central banks. US President Donald Trump said he may extend a March 1 deadline for a deal after both sides reported progress in five days of talks in Beijing last week. The FOMC minutes will be released Wednesday where it is expected to reiterate a dovish message overall. Also, an ECB official said yesterday that recent data pointed to a weakening euro zone economy and interest rates would remain at the current level until monetary policy goals have been met.
- Japan's economy recovered from a contraction in the fourth quarter of 2018 as the economy expanded at an annualized rate from -2.5% in Q3 to 1.4% in Q4. The GDP data has recovered, however Japan is still an economy that is losing momentum. The economy grew at a pace of 0.7% in 2018, compared to 1.9% in 2017. The central strain on Japan's economy is coming from overseas demand, with economic weakness in Europe and a slowdown in China negatively impacting Japan's export sector. The trade war theme between the two largest economies is also seen as a major burden for Japan's exports of cars, electronics, and heavy machinery to China.
- Oil prices dipped slightly on Monday after climbing to their highest level this year as China reported automobile sales in January fell for a seventh month, raising concerns about fuel demand in the world's second-largest oil user. Benchmark Brent crude fell 5 cents from its 3 month high of \$66.78 to \$66.35. Despite this data, global oil markets remain relatively tight because of supply cuts organized by OPEC and some non-affiliated producers like Russia.

**Dow Jones**  
3 Month Performance



**Brent Crude**  
3 Month Performance



#### Chart Points and Other Technical Input

CCY	2nd Support	1st Support	Spot	1st Resistance	2nd Resistance
EUR	1.1215	1.1265	<b>1.1314</b>	1.1375	1.1425
GBP	1.2820	1.2865	<b>1.2914</b>	1.2965	1.3020
JPY	109.50	110.00	<b>110.53</b>	111.05	111.55
CHF	0.9935	0.9985	<b>1.0036</b>	1.0090	1.0140

#### Major Currencies

CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %	CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %
EUR/USD	1.1293	(1.41)	EUR/GBP	0.8764	(2.35)
GBP/USD	1.2889	1.20	GBP/JPY	142.35	1.91
USD/JPY	110.48	0.25	EUR/JPY	124.74	(0.97)
USD/CHF	1.0050	2.27	EUR/CHF	1.1352	0.84

#### Major Crosses

#### Brief Technical Commentary

**EUR/USD:** The pair moved down to the 1.1231 level during Friday's trading session and currently trading at 1.1314. EUR/USD Support is at (1.1215-1.1265) any break below would take the pair to 1.1015. Short term outlook is slightly bullish however medium term outlook remains bearish.

**GBP/USD:** The pair moved down to the 1.2782 level during Friday's trading session and currently trading at 1.2914. GBP/USD Support is at (1.2780-1.2820) any break below would take the pair to 1.2665. Short term outlook is slightly bullish however medium term outlook remains bearish.

#### Local & Global Rates

CCY	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
KWD	record could n	record could n	record could n	record could n	record could n
USD	2.42	2.48	2.68	2.75	2.91
EUR	-0.45	-0.41	-0.34	-0.29	-0.17
GBP	0.70	0.73	0.87	0.99	1.12
CHF	-0.80	-0.78	-0.72	-0.65	-0.51
AUD	1.76	1.90	2.12	2.24	2.15

#### Economic Events

Date	Country	Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous
19-Feb-19	AUD	RBA Monetary Policy Minutes			
19-Feb-19	GBP	Average Earnings Index		3.5%	3.4%
19-Feb-19	GBP	Unemployment Rate		4.0%	4.0%
19-Feb-19	EUR	German ZEW Sentiment		-14.1	-15.0
20-Feb-19	USD	FOMC Meeting Minutes			
21-Feb-19	AUD	Unemployment Rate		5.0%	5.0%
21-Feb-19	EUR	ECB Monetary Policy Minutes			
21-Feb-19	USD	Core Durable Goods		0.2%	-0.4%
22-Feb-19	EUR	German Ifo Business Climate		99	99.1
22-Feb-19	EUR	ECB Gov Draghi Speaks			

#### Government Yields

Country	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	2.53	2.52	2.49	2.66	2.99
Germany	-0.59	-0.57	-0.39	0.09	0.71
United Kingdom	0.71	0.71	0.80	1.16	1.68
Japan	-0.20	-0.18	-0.18	-0.03	0.59

#### Commodities

Index	Last Price	% Change	Index	Last Price	% Change
Kuwait Oil	66.73	2.39	Dow Jones	25,883.25	1.74
Brent	66.04	(0.03)	Nikkei 225	21,291.18	1.87
West Texas	55.53	(0.18)	S&P 500	2,775.60	1.09
Gold	1,323.19	0.17	KuwaitSE	5,198.11	(0.18)

All information has been sourced from Reuters.

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