

Highlights in the Foreign Exchange Market:

- The US dollar began the weekly session in a subdued state as financial markets turn their attention to this week's Federal Reserve policy meeting. Investors are expecting that policymakers may indicate a pause in their monetary tightening cycle as several monetary officials have come out with a dovish tone and the word patience from Federal Reserve members is becoming the norm. The best performing major currency today against the USD is the safe haven Japanese yen, which has appreciated by 0.16%.
- In the commodities complex, oil prices rose last week supported by the US threat of sanctions on Venezuela, an OPEC member and major exporter. US President Donald Trump recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as interim president of Venezuela. In response, the current president of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro said the country was cutting ties with the US and gave diplomats 72 hours to leave the country. The Trump administration reacted by vowing to impose sanctions if the political turmoil continues. Venezuela still exports about 350,000 barrels to the US a day, though production has fallen sharply over several years due to mismanagement by the government.
- Asian equities were mostly higher following a solid week on Wall Street, with the exception of a slight dip for Tokyo's Topix. The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong rose 0.4% on Monday while the Shanghai Composite index gained 0.3%. Tokyo's Topix fell 0.4% due to a drop in utilities stocks and financials. A crucial week lies ahead with negotiations on trade and a policy meeting of the Federal Reserve. Vice ministers from Beijing arrive in the US today as investors watch closely for any hints of progress. Additionally, tech giants such as Apple, Microsoft, and Facebook will announce earnings today. The risk facing investors now is if the US boosts its tariff charges on Chinese goods to 25% from 10% if no agreement is made by the March 1st deadline.

USD/JPY
2 Month Performance



Brent Crude Oil
2 Month Performance



Chart Points and Other Technical Input

CCY	2nd Support	1st Support	Spot	1st Resistance	2nd Resistance
EUR	1.1320	1.1370	1.1420	1.1475	1.1525
GBP	1.3090	1.3145	1.3199	1.3255	1.3305
JPY	108.25	108.75	109.36	109.90	110.40
CHF	0.9820	0.9870	0.9917	0.9975	1.0025

Major Currencies

CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %	CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %
EUR/USD	1.1412	(0.52)	EUR/GBP	0.8639	(3.75)
GBP/USD	1.3201	3.41	GBP/JPY	144.55	3.01
USD/JPY	109.53	(0.84)	EUR/JPY	124.93	(1.86)
USD/CHF	0.9929	1.05	EUR/CHF	1.1326	0.60

Brief Technical Commentary

EUR/USD: The pair moved up to the 1.1419 level during Friday's trading session and currently trading at 1.1420. EUR/USD Support is at (1.1320-1.1370) any break below would take the pair to 1.1215. Short term and medium term outlook are Neutral.

USD/JPY: The pair moved up to the 109.95 level during Friday's trading session and currently trading at 109.38. USD/JPY Support is at (108.25-108.75) any break below targets 107.45. 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	2.40	2.50	2.75	2.83	3.03
EUR	-0.44	-0.42	-0.33	-0.29	-0.17
GBP	0.70	0.73	0.92	1.04	1.17
CHF	-0.81	-0.78	-0.70	-0.64	-0.51
AUD	1.79	1.84	2.02	2.21	2.25

Economic Events

Date	Country	Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous
28-Jan-19	EUR	ECB President Draghi Speaks			
28-Jan-19	GBP	BOE Gov Carney Speaks			
29-Jan-19	USD	CB Consumer Confidence		125.0	128.1
29-Jan-19	AUD	CPI q/q		0.4%	0.4%
30-Jan-19	USD	FOMC Statement			
30-Jan-19	USD	Federal Funds Rate		<2.5%	<2.5%
31-Jan-19	CAD	GDP m/m			0.3%
1-Feb-19	USD	Average Hourly Earnings m/m		0.3%	0.4%
1-Feb-19	USD	Non-Farm Employment Change		165K	312K
1-Feb-19	USD	Unemployment Rate		3.8%	3.9%

Government Yields

Country	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	2.58	2.59	2.58	2.74	3.05
Germany	-0.59	-0.60	-0.34	0.19	0.77
United Kingdom	0.80	0.79	0.94	1.30	1.78
Japan	-0.19	-0.17	-0.17	-0.01	0.64

Commodities

Index	Last Price	% Change	Index	Last Price	% Change
Kuwait Oil	60.47	(0.05)	Dow Jones	24,737.20	0.75
Brent	61.93	(0.03)	Nikkei 225	20,638.71	(0.65)
West Texas	53.48	(0.19)	S&P 500	2,664.76	0.85
Gold	1,302.53	(0.05)	KuwaitSE	5,197.43	(0.84)

All information has been sourced from Reuters.

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