

Highlights in the Foreign Exchange Market:

- The past week saw the dollar enjoy its best weekly performance since 2016, wiping away most of its losses in 2018. Trade protectionism fears have been calmed after widespread optimism regarding an imminent NAFTA deal. Furthermore, markets see a light at the end of the tunnel in terms of tensions with China. US Treasury Secretary Mnuchin will be visiting China in an attempt to reach some sort of understanding after recent escalation of a trade war. Also a catalyst for dollar strength was the US-10 year Treasury yield breaking the 3% level for the first time since 2014.
- ECB President Mario Draghi hailed "solid" euro zone growth, while at the same time acknowledging a slow-down in the Eurozone economy. The ECB was not overly concerned by the recent moderation in growth, and described the euro zone economy as still experiencing a solid and broad based expansion. The ECB also continued to see the risks to their growth outlook as broadly balanced, although understandably expressed more concern over downside risks posed by the recent shift to more protectionist trade policies.
- The Bank of Japan's central bank left its policy rates unchanged as expected on Friday. This time however, the bank abandoned the timeline it had set for hitting its inflation target in a surprise move analysts say is aimed at keeping market expectations for more stimulus in check. Bank of Japan Governor Kuroda noted the omission of a target timeframe was aimed at preventing markets from betting on additional easing each time the BOJ pushed back the timing for hitting its price goal.



Chart Points and Other Technical Input

CCY	2nd Support	1st Support	Spot	1st Resistance	2nd Resistance
EUR	1.1930	1.2020	1.2128	1.2225	1.2330
GBP	1.3580	1.3680	1.3778	1.3875	1.3980
JPY	107.00	108.00	109.03	110.00	111.00
CHF	0.9680	0.9775	0.9877	0.9975	1.0070

Major Currencies

CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %	Major Crosses	CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %
EUR/USD	1.2128	1.10	EUR/GBP	0.8799	(0.98)	
GBP/USD	1.3778	2.02	GBP/JPY	150.32	(1.18)	
USD/JPY	109.03	(3.23)	EUR/JPY	132.27	(2.17)	
USD/CHF	0.9877	1.38	EUR/CHF	1.1980	2.49	

Brief Technical Commentary

EUR/USD: The pair moved down to the 1.2053 level during Friday's trading session and closed the week at 1.2128. EUR Resistance is at (1.2290-1.2330) any break above targets 1.2415 and Support is at (1.1930-1.1980) any break below targets 1.1835. The pair is currently Neutral.

USD/JPY: The pair moved down to the 108.95 level during Friday's trading session and closed the week at 109.03 USD/JPY Resistance is at (110.50-111.00) any break above targets 112.35. The pair is currently Bullish.

Local & Global Rates

CCY	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
KWD	1.25	1.75	2.00	2.19	2.44
USD	1.75	1.91	2.36	2.52	2.78
EUR	-0.42	-0.40	-0.36	-0.32	-0.24
GBP	0.49	0.52	0.71	0.81	0.98
CHF	-0.80	-0.78	-0.73	-0.65	-0.52
AUD	1.43	1.90	2.20	2.27	2.30

Economic Events

Date	Country	Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous
30-Apr-18	CNY	Manufacturing PMI		51.3	51.5
30-Apr-18	EUR	German Retail Sales m/m		54.6	54.6
30-Apr-18	USD	Core PCE Price Index m/m		0.2%	0.2%
1-May-18	GBP	Manufacturing PMI		54.9	55.1
2-May-18	USD	ADP Non-Farm Employment		194K	241K
2-May-18	USD	FOMC Statement			
3-May-18	GBP	Services PMI		53.3	51.7
4-May-18	USD	Average Hourly Earnings m/m		0.2%	0.3%
4-May-18	USD	Non-Farm Employment		185K	103K
4-May-18	USD	FOMC Dudley Speaks			

Government Yields

Country	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	2.23	2.48	2.80	2.96	3.13
Germany	-0.68	-0.58	-0.05	0.57	1.23
United Kingdom	0.69	0.78	1.13	1.44	1.85
Japan	-0.15	-0.14	-0.11	0.05	0.74

Commodities

Index	Last Price	% Change	Global Indices	Index	Last Price	Change
Kuwait Oil	70.21	0.14	Dow Jones	24,311.19	(11.15)	
Brent	76.07	(0.03)	Nikkei 225	22,467.87	148.26	
West Texas	68.06	(0.15)	S&P 500	2,669.91	2.97	
Gold	1,321.89	0.38	KuwaitSE	4,801.38	(1.62)	

All information has been sourced from Reuters

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