## **Morning Comment**

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Tuesday 18 February 2025 07:18 am

## Tight ranges amongst the FX majors

There was a generally quiet start to the week on financial markets yesterday. This was not overly surprising. US markets were closed for the President's Day holiday. Meanwhile, the macro diary on this side of the Atlantic was very sparse, with no releases of any note from either the Eurozone or UK schedules.

Against this backdrop, the positive tone to investor sentiment carried over into this week. The Euro Stoxx 50 gained 0.5% on the day. Meanwhile, on bond markets, European yields were generally 4-6bps higher over the course of the day. The German 10-year Bund yield rose by 6bps, to move up nearer to the 2.5% threshold.

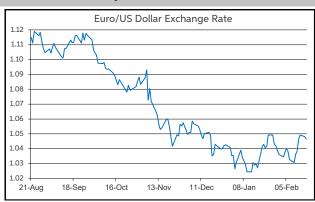
Currency-wise, the majors were trading within tight ranges amid the quiet macro data/event setting. The EUR/USD pair operated in a narrow corridor just below the \$1.05 mark, which represents a notable improvement from where it commenced last week, down nearer to \$1.03. Likewise, EUR/GBP was confined to a very limited 83.0-83.4p range. The muted FX trading conditions persisted in the overnight Asia-Pacific session.

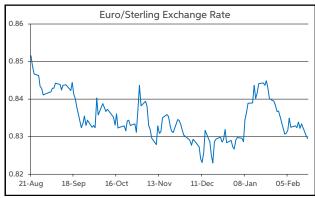
After yesterday's uneventful data schedule, there is a much busier agenda today. Indeed, already this morning, we have had a raft of UK labour market updates for Q4'24. This included the unemployment rate printing at 4.4%, slightly below expectations for 4.5%. Average earnings and employment data were also stronger than forecast. Sterling has traded higher in the initial aftermath of the UK macro news this morning, with EUR/GBP below the 83p level and GBP/USD above \$1.26. The remainder of today's macro calendar contains the German ZEW investor survey (Feb) as well as US homebuilder sentiment (Feb).

## John Fahey, Senior Economist, AIB

| Today's Opening FX Rates         |        |          |          |  |
|----------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|--|
|                                  |        | % Change |          |  |
|                                  |        | Day *    | End 2024 |  |
| EUR/USD                          | 1.0464 | -0.24    | 1.07     |  |
| EUR/GBP                          | 0.8295 | -0.43    | 0.27     |  |
| GBP/USD                          | 1.2612 | 0.21     | 0.81     |  |
| GBP/EUR                          | 1.2052 | 0.43     | -0.27    |  |
| USD/JPY                          | 151.8  | 0.19     | -3.42    |  |
| EUR/JPY                          | 158.87 | -0.04    | -2.38    |  |
| * v Previous Day's European Open |        |          |          |  |
| See Next Page for More Rates     |        |          |          |  |

| Opening Interest Rates |           |       |        |            |      |      |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|------------|------|------|
|                        |           | Money | Market | Swap Rates |      |      |
|                        | Base Rate | 1-Mth | 3-Mth  | 1-Yr       | 2-Yr | 5-Yr |
| USD                    | 4.38      | 4.31  | 4.32   | 4.23       | 4.41 | 4.36 |
| EUR                    | 2.90      | 2.60  | 2.52   | 2.36       | 2.29 | 2.36 |
| GBP                    | 4.50      | 4.45  | 4.41   | 4.16       | 4.28 | 4.20 |









All rates quoted are indicative market rates

See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

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## **Opening Levels**



| EUR/GBP0.8295EUR/USD1.0464EUR/JPY158.87EUR/SEK11.2131EUR/DKK7.4589EUR/NOK11.6384EUR/CHF0.9434                 |
|---|
| EUR/JPY158.87EUR/SEK11.2131EUR/DKK7.4589EUR/NOK11.6384EUR/CHF0.9434   |
| EUR/SEK       11.2131         EUR/DKK       7.4589         EUR/NOK       11.6384         EUR/CHF       0.9434 |
| EUR/DKK       7.4589         EUR/NOK       11.6384         EUR/CHF       0.9434                               |
| EUR/NOK 11.6384<br>EUR/CHF 0.9434   |
| EUR/CHF 0.9434  |
|   |
|   |
| EUR/AUD 1.6448  |
| EUR/HKD 8.1395  |
| EUR/CAD 1.4837  |

| Sterling |         |  |  |  |
|----------|---------|--|--|--|
| GBP/EUR  | 1.2052  |  |  |  |
| GBP/USD  | 1.2612  |  |  |  |
| GBP/CAD  | 1.7886  |  |  |  |
| GBP/NZD  | 2.2055  |  |  |  |
| GBP/JPY  | 191.45  |  |  |  |
| GBP/SEK  | 13.5167 |  |  |  |
| GBP/DKK  | 8.9919  |  |  |  |
| GBP/NOK  | 14.03   |  |  |  |
| GBP/CHF  | 1.1371  |  |  |  |
| GBP/AUD  | 1.9821  |  |  |  |

| Dollar  |        |  |  |  |
|---------|--------|--|--|--|
| USD/JPY | 151.8  |  |  |  |
| USD/CAD | 1.4181 |  |  |  |
| USD/CHF | 0.9015 |  |  |  |
| USD/CNY | 7.2791 |  |  |  |
| USD/BRL | 5.713  |  |  |  |
| USD/RUB | 91.3   |  |  |  |
| USD/INR | 86.945 |  |  |  |
|         |        |  |  |  |
| AUD/USD | 0.6359 |  |  |  |
| NZD/USD | 0.5716 |  |  |  |
|         |        |  |  |  |



US Swap Curve

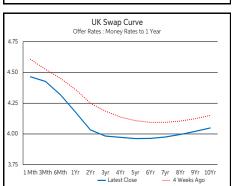
4.40

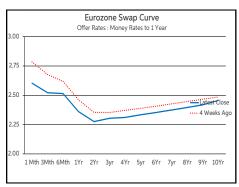
4.30

4.20

4.00







1 Mth 3Mth 6Mth 1Yr 2Yr 3yr 4Yr 5yr 6Yr 7yr 8Yr 9Yr 10Yr
— Latest Close .... 4 Weeks Ago



| Debt Markets      |                |             |          |        |  |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|----------|--------|--|
|                   |                | Change bps  |          |        |  |
|                   | Close          | Day         | 4 Weeks  | End 24 |  |
| 10 Year Yield %   |                |             |          |        |  |
| US                | 4.48           | +0          | -14      | -10    |  |
| Germany           | 2.48           | +6          | -1       | +12    |  |
| UK                | 4.53           | +3          | -13      | -4     |  |
| Ireland           | 2.78           | +5          | -3       | +13    |  |
| Belgium           | 3.04           | +5          | -4       | +6     |  |
| France            | 3.17           | +4          | -13      | -3     |  |
| Italy             | 3.55           | +3          | -6       | +3     |  |
| Spain             | 3.15           | +4          | -1       | +8     |  |
| Portugal          | 2.99           | +3          | +4       | +14    |  |
| Greece            | 3.36           | +5          | +6       | +11    |  |
| 5 Year Swap %     |                |             |          |        |  |
| US                | 4.29           | -0          | -10      | +0     |  |
| Eurozone          | 2.32           | +2          | -6       | +9     |  |
| UK                | 4.20           | -0          | -14      | -8     |  |
| 2 Year Swap %     |                |             |          |        |  |
| US                | 4.36           | -0          | -4       | +3     |  |
| Eurozone          | 2.27           | +1          | -8       | +8     |  |
| UK                | 4.28           | -1          | -18      | -21    |  |
| 10 Year Governmei | nt Bond Spread | s to Benchr | nark bps |        |  |
| Ireland           | 29             | -1          | -2       | +0     |  |
| Belgium           | 56             | -1          | -3       | -6     |  |
| France            | 68             | -2          | -12      | -15    |  |
| Italy             | 107            | -3          | -6       | -9     |  |
| Spain             | 66             | -2          | -0       | -4     |  |
| Portugal          | 50             | -3          | +5       | +2     |  |
| Greece            | 88             | -1          | +7       | -1     |  |

| Commodities    |        |          |         |        |  |
|----------------|--------|----------|---------|--------|--|
|                |        | % Change |         |        |  |
|                | Close  | Day      | 4 Weeks | End 24 |  |
| Brent Oil      | 75.22  | +0.64    | -6.15   | +0.78  |  |
| West Texas Oil | 71.65  | -0.17    | -1.90   | -1.27  |  |
|                |        |          |         |        |  |
| Gold \$        | 2897.7 | +0.50    | +7.00   | +10.44 |  |

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