Morning Comment

AIB Treasury Economic Research Unit



Monday 31 March 2025 07:05 am

Spotlight on US tariff plans this week

The month of March has been characterised by a risk averse mood. This has coincided with elevated global trade tensions amid tariff policy uncertainty originating from the White House. At the same time, concerns have increased over the outlook for the US economy on the back of some disappointing macro data. The 'risk off' mood is reflected in the S&P 500 being 6% lower in March.

Currency-wise, there has been a significant weakening of the dollar and more volatile trading conditions. The greenback has lost between 3-4% on the exchanges. Given the US was the source of much of the reasons for the risk averse mood, the dollar did not benefit from the usual safe haven demand flows. Instead, concerns over the US economic outlook, saw a softening in US rate expectations which meant interest rate differentials weighed on the dollar. The euro was boosted by major new European fiscal spending plans, particularly from Germany.

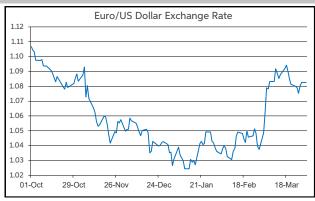
In level terms, EUR/USD traded up to a YTD high of \$1.095, before settling nearer to \$1.08 as we head into month end. The pair had started March below \$1.04. Meanwhile, GBP/USD also registered a fresh YTD peak just above \$1.30, and opens this morning near the midpoint of the \$1.29-1.30 band. Elsewhere, the action in EUR/GBP was less eventful this month, trading in a 82.4p-84.4p range.

The 'trade policy' issues that dominated much of March will remain to the fore in April. Indeed, this week (Wednesday) they will be front and centre, with the White House due to announce details of its new tariff plans. This provides plenty of event risk for markets, including the dollar. Data-wise, there are also some important releases including US payrolls and Eurozone flash HICP inflation (both March).

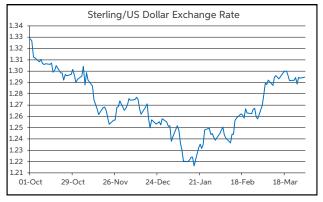
John Fahey, Senior Economist, AIB

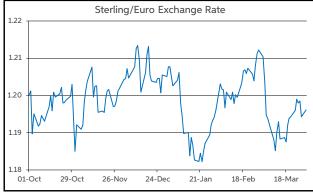
Today's Opening FX Rates				
		% Change		
		Day *	End 2024	
EUR/USD	1.0826	0.33	4.57	
EUR/GBP	0.8357	0.25	1.02	
GBP/USD	1.2948	0.08	3.49	
GBP/EUR	1.1959	-0.25	-1.01	
USD/JPY	149	-1.17	-5.20	
EUR/JPY	161.32	-0.84	-0.88	
* v Previous Day's European Open				
See Next Page for More Rates				

Opening Interest Rates						
		Money Market		Swap Rates		
	Base Rate	1-Mth	3-Mth	1-Yr	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	4.38	4.31	4.27	3.92	3.97	3.90
EUR	2.65	2.34	2.33	2.21	2.15	2.36
GBP	4.50	4.45	4.35	4.17	4.30	4.27









All rates quoted are indicative market rates

See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

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Opening Levels

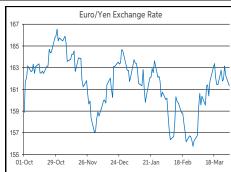


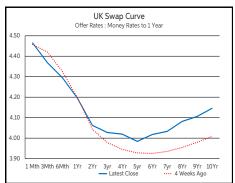
Euro	
EUR/GBP	0.8357
EUR/USD	1.0826
EUR/JPY	161.32
EUR/SEK	10.827
EUR/DKK	7.4608
EUR/NOK	11.3637
EUR/CHF	0.9527
EUR/AUD	1.7243
EUR/HKD	8.4215
EUR/CAD	1.5499

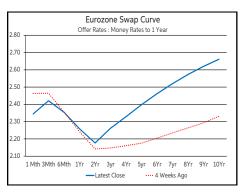
Sterling				
GBP/EUR	1.1959			
GBP/USD	1.2948			
GBP/CAD	1.8536			
GBP/NZD	2.2679			
GBP/JPY	192.93			
GBP/SEK	12.9503			
GBP/DKK	8.9207			
GBP/NOK	13.5907			
GBP/CHF	1.1392			
GBP/AUD	2.0617			

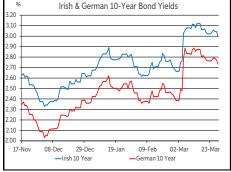
Dollar				
USD/JPY	149			
USD/CAD	1.4317			
USD/CHF	0.8798			
USD/CNY	7.2528			
USD/BRL	5.7587			
USD/RUB	85.2			
USD/INR	85.501			
AUD/USD	0.6277			
NZD/USD	0.5706			











	Debt	Markets				
			Change bps			
	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 24		
10 Year Yield %						
US	4.26	-11	+3	-32		
Germany	2.73	-4	+35	+37		
UK	4.70	-8	+22	+13		
Ireland	3.02	-5	+34	+37		
Belgium	3.28	-4	+31	+30		
France	3.44	-3	+30	+24		
Italy	3.85	-3	+38	+33		
Spain	3.36	-3	+28	+30		
Portugal	3.25	-4	+32	+40		
Greece	3.60	-4	+32	+35		
 5 Year Swap %						
US	3.93	-10	-5	-36		
Eurozone	2.38	-5	+21	+14		
UK	4.22	-11	+8	-6		
 2 Year Swap %						
US	3.97	-11	-11	-36		
Eurozone	2.17	-4	+4	-2		
UK	4.26	-7	+2	-23		
10 Year Governme	10 Year Government Bond Spreads to Benchmark bps					
Ireland	29	-0	-1	+0		
Belgium	55	+1	-4	-7		
France	71	+1	-5	-13		
Italy	112	+2	+3	-4		
Spain	63	+1	-7	-7		
Portugal	52	+0	-3	+3		
Greece	87	+0	-3	-2		

Commodities					
		% Change			
	Close Day 4 Weeks E				
Brent Oil	73.63	-0.54	+0.61	-1.35	
West Texas Oil	71.65	-0.17	-1.90	-1.27	
Gold \$	3084.0	+0.91	+7.89	+17.54	

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