

Quiet pre-Christmas tone to markets

Financial markets retained their overall subdued tone yesterday, as markets continued to wind down ahead of the holiday season. The general lack of data/events over the past 24 hours added to the lacklustre mood.

The main equity indices were slightly higher on both sides of the Atlantic. Meantime, US Treasury yields saw no additional upward pressure (10-year c.2.50%) as markets digested the Trump Administration's raft of tax reforms.

Data-wise, yesterday's main release, the flash EC measure of Eurozone consumer confidence, rose more than expected (0.5 vs f'cast 0.2) in December. This represents a new 17-year high for the index, pointing to a reacceleration in consumer spending in Q4. This augers well for GDP growth in the quarter.

In terms of currency markets, the main FX pairs continued to trade in narrow ranges yesterday. The overnight reports that the Catalan regional elections were likely to see the 'separatist' parties retain power had no major lasting impact on the euro.

In level terms, the EUR/USD pair opens this morning still close to the mid-point of the \$1.18-1.19 band. EUR/GBP is changing hands close to 88.5p. Meanwhile, cable (GBP/USD) continues to trade just below the \$1.34 mark.

In the day ahead, the data schedule includes final UK Q3 GDP, along with US consumer spending and core-PCE inflation for November. Overall though, we could see currency markets retain their subdued tone today, as we head into the long Christmas weekend.

Dara Turnbull, Economist, AIB

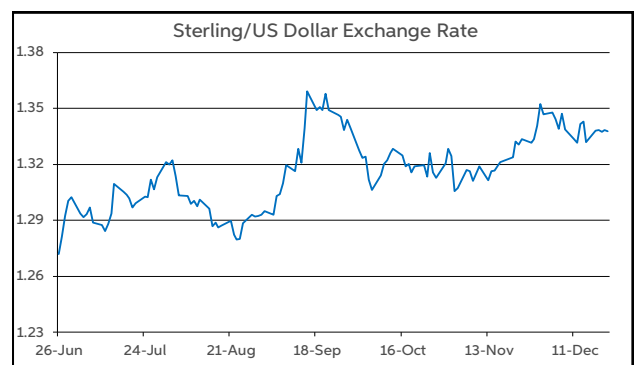
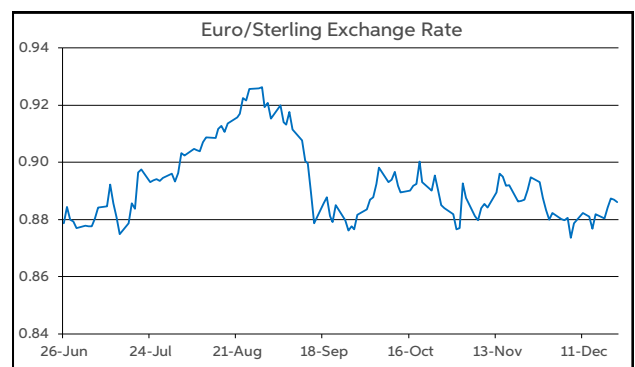
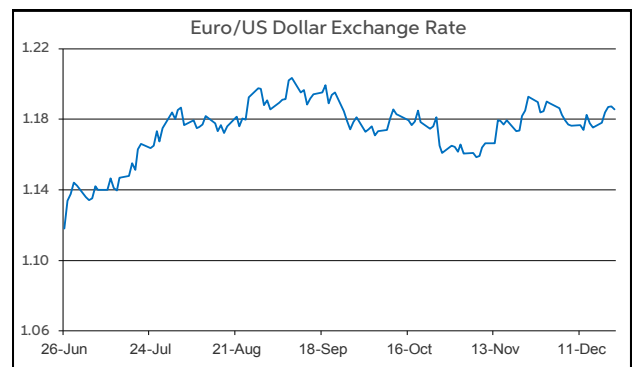
Opening Interest Rates						
	Base Rate	Short Term			Long Term	
		1-Mth	3-Mth	12-Mth	2-Yr	5-Yr
USD	1.375	1.55	1.67	2.09	2.10	2.28
EUR	0.00	-0.37	-0.33	-0.19	-0.14	0.31
GBP	0.50	0.50	0.52	0.77	0.82	1.08

Equity Indices				
	Latest Close	% Changes		
		on Day	End 2016 to Date	
Dow Jones	24782.29	+0.23	+25.40	
S&P 500	2684.57	+0.20	+19.91	
FTSE 100	7603.98	+1.05	+6.46	
DJ Stoxx 50	3570.78	+0.51	+8.52	
ISEQ	7011.22	+0.43	+7.58	
Nikkei	22902.76	+0.16	+19.82	

Today's Opening Rates			
		% Change	
		Day *	End 2016
EUR/USD	1.1855	-0.10	12.77
EUR/GBP	0.8861	-0.20	4.03
GBP/USD	1.3377	0.12	8.44
GBP/EUR	1.128	0.20	-3.87
USD/JPY	113.4	0.01	-2.97
EUR/JPY	134.44	-0.08	9.18

* v Previous Day's European Open

See Next Page for More Rates >>>



All rates quoted are indicative market rates

See Next Page For More Rates & Charts

CONTACTS

AIB Customer Treasury Services
business.treasury@aib.ie
aib.corporate@treasury@aib.ie
fxcentre.aib.ie

Customer Treasury Services GB
treasury.gb@aib.ie
aibgb.co.uk/fxcentre

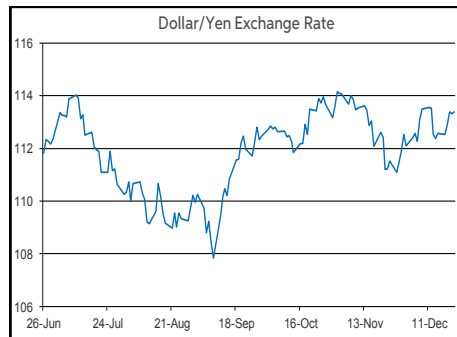
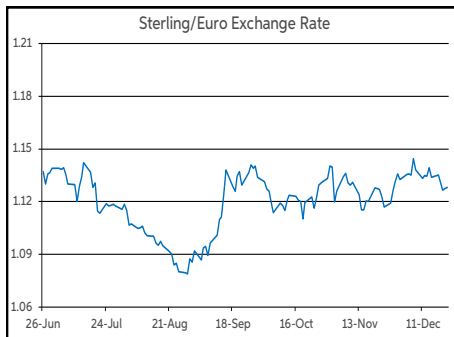
Customer Treasury Services NI
FTBTreasury@aib.ie
firsttrustbank.co.uk/fxcentre

Opening Levels

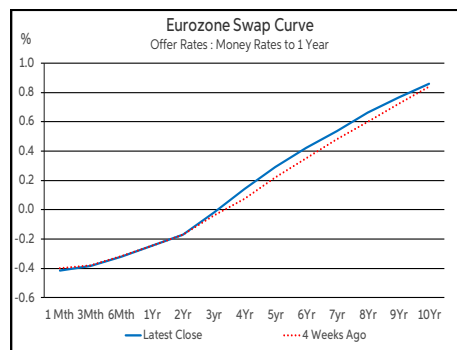
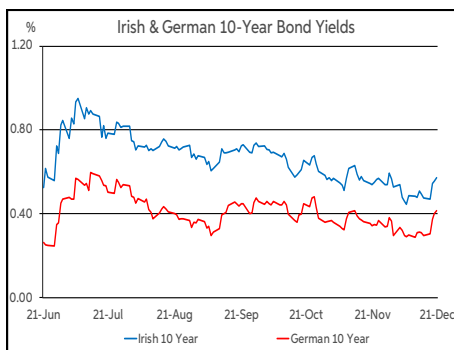
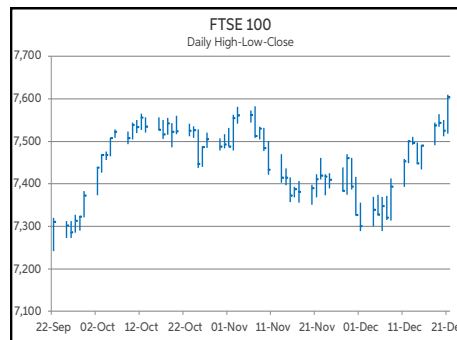
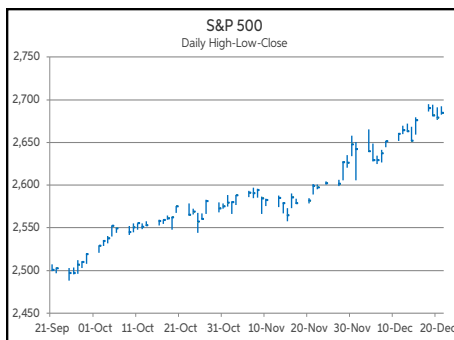
Friday 22 December 2017
07:31 am



Euro		Sterling		Dollar	
EUR/GBP	0.8861	GBP/EUR	1.128	USD/JPY	113.4
EUR/USD	1.1855	GBP/USD	1.3377	USD/CAD	1.2739
EUR/JPY	134.44	GBP/CAD	1.7042	USD/CHF	0.989
EUR/SEK	9.9422	GBP/NZD	1.9065	USD/CNY	6.5748
EUR/DKK	7.4439	GBP/JPY	151.7	USD/BRL	3.3083
EUR/NOK	9.9173	GBP/SEK	11.2149	USD/RUB	58.3625
EUR/CHF	1.1729	GBP/DKK	8.3977	USD/INR	64.05
EUR/AUD	1.5372	GBP/NOK	11.1915	AUD/USD	0.7711
EUR/HKD	9.2688	GBP/CHF	1.3232	NZD/USD	0.7015
EUR/CAD	1.5106	GBP/AUD	1.7344		



	Close	Change bps		
		Day	4 Weeks	End 16
10 Year Yield %				
US	2.48	-1	+16	+4
Germany	0.42	+1	+7	+22
UK	1.26	+0	+1	+2
Ireland	0.57	+1	+1	-18
Belgium	0.59	-0	+3	+8
France	0.73	+1	+6	+6
Italy	1.90	-4	+13	+9
Spain	1.45	-2	+0	+8
Portugal	1.74	-2	-16	-198
Greece	3.99	-1	-125	-289
5 Year Swap %				
US	2.27	+0	+15	+31
Eurozone	0.29	-1	+7	+21
UK	1.07	-0	+1	+19
2 Year Swap %				
US	2.06	-1	+15	+62
Eurozone	-0.17	-2	+0	-1
UK	0.81	-0	-2	+21
10 Year Government Bond Spreads to Benchmark bps				
Ireland	16	+0	-6	-39
Belgium	17	-1	-4	-14
France	32	-1	-1	-16
Italy	148	-5	+6	-13
Spain	103	-3	-7	-14
Portugal	133	-4	-23	-220
Greece	358	-3	-132	-310



	% Change			
	Close	Day	4 Weeks	End 16
Brent Oil	64.9	+0.53	+2.12	+14.22
West Texas Oil	58.34	+0.43	+0.79	+8.54
CRB - All Commodity	187.74	+0.35	-2.02	-2.48
CRB - Food	337.43	-0.61	-3.00	-0.39
Gold \$	1266.8	+0.09	-1.92	+9.94

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