

Daily commentary

Friday, 16 March 2018

Key news

- Bumpy road yesterday as Sterling gains against Euro and falls against US Dollar

Markets overview

Good morning,

Sterling edged lower on Thursday as the US dollar gained ground. The Pound slipped 0.2 percent to \$1.3942 as broader currency markets stuck to established ranges before a G20 meeting next week amid rising trade tensions.

Sterling hit \$1.4346 on Jan. 25, its highest level against the U.S. dollar since Britain voted to leave the European Union in June 2016. Though it has pulled back modestly from those highs, it remains near the top of its trading range of \$1.20 to \$1.43, buoyed by hopes a Brexit transition deal will eventually be struck and by a generally weaker U.S. currency.

With no new economic data to drive the pound, analysts remain focused on a Bank of England policy meeting next week and a European Union leaders summit, where Britain has said it will strike a transition deal to cover its relations with the bloc immediately after Brexit in March 2019. Against the euro, sterling strengthened 0.2 percent to 88.36 pence.

Focus today

In the UK there's another quiet day ahead, and Markets continue to look ahead to next week's policy meeting.

In Europe, the wage growth figure for February is due for release today. This data is important for the ECB when they look to their monetary policy decisions. In the US, industrial production data for February will be out at lunchtime.

Hope you have a lovely long weekend, we will be back on Tuesday - Joanne

Today's Major Data Releases - source: Reuters

Time	Region	Event	Period	Expectation
10.00	EUR	HICP Final m/m y/y	Feb	0.2% 1.2%
10.00	EUR	Labour Costs y/y	Q4	
10.00	EUR	Wage Growth	Q4	
13.15	USD	Industrial Production m/m	Feb	0.4%

Market movers today:

- EUR Wage Growth Figures
- Industrial Production Data

Market rates

CCY pair	Market rate at opening
GBP/USD	1.3942
GBP/EUR	1.1324
EUR/USD	1.2309
EUR/GBP	0.8831
GBP/AUD	1.7897
GBP/CAD	1.8216
GBP/CHF	1.3244
GBP/DKK	8.4346
GBP/HKD	10.9348
GBP/JPY	147.4100
GBP/NOK	10.7592
GBP/NZD	1.9224
GBP/SEK	11.4237
USD/CNY	6.3250
LIBOR (last business day setting)	
GBP 1 month	0.498
GBP 3 month	0.60591
GBP 6 month	0.71188
Commodities and Stock Markets	
Crude oil (\$/barrel)	65.07
Gold (\$/oz)	1318.4301
FTSE 100	7139.76
Dow Jones	24873.66
Nikkei 225	21676.51
Hang Sang	31501.97
German DAX	12345.56

Source : Reuters

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