



21st February 2020
This week's highlights

EUR/\$ Little changed	Sterling A touch softer	Bond Yields Lower	UK PMIs Solid
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Euro Area

- The euro rebounds from under \$1.08 against the dollar to trade little changed overall at about \$1.0850
- Core bond yields lower for a second consecutive week, with German 10-year yields down 5bps to -0.45%
- Composite PMI nudged up again in February, to 51.6, a reading consistent with positive but modest growth

UK

- Having jumped in January post the general election, the Composite PMI held at a solid reading of 53.3 in Feb
- Annual CPI inflation picked up to 1.8% in January (from 1.3% in Dec) with the core rate nudging up to 1.6%
- The pound was a touch weaker against both the euro and the dollar at around 84p and \$1.29 respectively

US

- Bond yields fall on the week amid ongoing coronavirus concerns, with 10-year yields 12bps lower at 1.46%
- Composite PMI drops below 50 expansion-contraction threshold in Feb, to 49.6, lowest reading since Oct 2013
- Fed minutes (January meeting) note "current stance of monetary policy likely to remain appropriate for a time"

Ireland

- Employment rose by 3.5%, or 79,900, y-o-y in Q4 2019, and by 1.3%, or 30,500, q-o-q seasonally adjusted
- The unemployment rate fell further in the fourth quarter to 4.7% (from 5.0% in the third quarter)
- Having averaged 0.9% in 2019 (up from 0.5% in 2018), the annual CPI inflation rate stood at 1.3% in January

Monday	IRL Economic Pulse; US Chicago Fed National Activity Index
Tuesday	IRL Earnings & Labour Costs, Industrial Disputes; UK CBI Retail Sales; US Consumer Confidence, House Prices
Wednesday	IRL Overseas Travel; US New Home Sales
Thursday	EA Economic Sentiment Indicator, M3; US GDP (Q4, 2nd estimate), Jobless Claims, Durable Goods Orders
Friday	IRL Retail Sales; UK Consumer Confidence; Lloyds Business Barometer; US Consumer Spending, PCE Inflation

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