

# Weekly Round Up

15th February 2019  
This week's highlights

## EUR/\$

Below 1.13

## Sterling

Weaker v \$

## EA GDP

Up 0.2% in Q4

## Retail Sales

Soft in the US

### Euro Area

- The euro struggles to sustain a move higher against the dollar and closes out the week trading below \$1.13
- German economy stagnates (0% GDP growth) in Q4 2018, while Euro zone expands by a below par 0.2%
- Employment continued to rise at the end of last year though, increasing by 0.3% in Q4 (from the third quarter)

### UK

- Government suffers another defeat in parliament, but discussions regarding the backstop to continue with EU
- Pound little changed against the euro at just under 88p, loses some ground against dollar to a little below \$1.29
- ERU projects GDP growth of 1.4% this year and 1.6% in 2020, assuming current UK-EU trading arrangements

### US

- Benchmark 10-year bond yields fall from intra-week high of over 2.70% to end broadly unchanged (at 2.65%)
- Retail sales finished 2018 on a weak note, falling by 1.2% (in nominal terms) month-on-month in December
- Annual rate of headline CPI inflation dips to 1.6% in January, but the core rate holds steady at 2.2%

### Ireland

- The moderation in residential property prices continued in December with the annual increase at 6.5%
- The annual rate of CPI inflation stood at 0.7% in January, the same as in December
- ERU forecasts GDP growth of 4.5% this year & 3.6% next year, assuming current UK-EU trading arrangements

### The week ahead

Monday	UK Rightmove House Prices
Tuesday	IRL Labour Force Survey (Q4 2018); EA Construction Output; UK Labour Market Report (Q4 2018)
Wednesday	EA Consumer Confidence; US Fed Minutes
Thursday	EA Flash PMIs; UK Public Finances; US Jobless Claims, Philly Fed Index, Durable Goods Orders, Flash PMIs
Friday	IRL Wholesale Price Index; EA CPI

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