



Short Term Currency Views

Suggested MaxiYield Pairings

Base Currency:	EUR	USD
Alternate Currency:	USD	EUR
Strike Price:	1.3850	1.3550
Spot Ref:	1.3764	
Tenor:	2 weeks	
Date:	19 Feb 2014	
Time:	14:00 hrs	
Resistance / Support:	1.3891	1.3591
Commentary:		

- Cold weather chills US retail sales, jobless claims up (Thu 13-Feb).
- Eurozone ZEW economic sentiment falls to 68.5 from 73.3 in January (Tue 18-Feb).
- Eurozone growth eases pressure on Draghi for stimulus (Fri 14-Feb).
- German investor confidence slips for second month in February (Tue 18-Feb).

US retail sales fell unexpectedly in January and more Americans filed for jobless benefits, the latest signs the economy started the year on softer footing as unseasonably cold weather took its toll. Retail sales fell 0.4% last month, led by a tumble in automobile sales and categories like clothing, furniture stores and restaurants that depend on foot traffic. December sales were revised down to show a 0.1% dip from an increase of 0.2%. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits rose 8,000 to a seasonally adjusted 339,000 in the week ended February 8. A four-week moving average of claims rose 3,500 to 336,750, suggesting layoffs have picked up only marginally.

The eurozone economy expanded more than forecast in Q4 of 2013, led by Germany and France, easing pressure on the ECB to take action next month to counter low inflation and spur growth. GDP in the eurozone rose 0.3% after a 0.1% increase in Q3, beating forecasts of 0.2% in a Bloomberg survey. For the full year 2013, GDP fell 0.4%. Germany, Europe's largest economy, fuelled the expansion with 0.4% growth in Q4, while French GDP rose 0.3%. Both results exceeded economists' forecasts.

German investor confidence fell for a second month in February. The ZEW Centre for European Economic Research in Mannheim said its index of investor and analyst expectations, which aims to predict economic developments six months in advance, slid to 55.7 from 61.7 in January, after reaching a seven-year high of 62 in December.

Base Currency:	GBP	USD
Alternate Currency:	USD	GBP
Strike Price:	1.6850	1.6500
Spot Ref:	1.6692	
Tenor:	2 weeks	
Date:	19 Feb 2014	
Time:	14:00 hrs	
Resistance / Support:	1.6866	1.6521
Commentary:		

- BoE raises 2014 GDP forecast to 3.4% after inflation report (Wed 12-Feb).
- Carney says forces holding down BoE interest rate to persist (Mon 17-Feb).
- Pound surges after Carney rewrites forward guidance (Wed 12-Feb).
- UK home asking prices rise to 6-year high (Mon 17-Feb).
- Pound slides after UK inflation slowed below BoE target (Tue 18-Feb).
- Eyes on UK December unemployment data (due Wed 19-Feb, 17:30 hrs SGT).

BoE governor Carney said the economic recovery is gathering pace, but output gap means it's too early to raise borrowing costs. The BoE also recast its guidance on future interest rates to say it would use monetary policy to combat slack in the British economy, rather than focusing on an employment threshold for determining borrowing costs. Sterling surged last Wednesday as money markets moved to factor in a UK interest rate rise earlier in 2015 than previously thought after the BoE upped its economic forecast for 2014 growth to 3.4% from 2.8% and pushed up expectations of a rate hike next year. It also said market pricing calling for the first tightening of policy in five years in the second quarter of next year were consistent with keeping inflation on target, prompting a sharp jump in sterling against the dollar.

"There are some very big forces that are operating now and will persist," Carney said in a BBC television interview broadcast yesterday. He cited economic weakness in Europe, repair of public balance sheets and improvements to the financial system. "All of those forces conspire collectively to keep that level of interest rates down." While the BoE raised its growth forecasts for Britain last week, Carney has underscored his pledge to keep the bank rate at 0.5% "for some time" in a recasting of his forward guidance to help use up spare capacity in the labour force. Interest-rate increases will be "limited and gradual" and won't happen until the economy is strong enough to withstand them, he said in a BBC interview broadcast on Sunday.

Asking prices for homes have hit their biggest year-on-year rise in more than six years, according to Rightmove. February's asking prices are now at an average of £251,964 across England and Wales. It said this is 6.9% higher than a year ago, amid ongoing demand from would-be buyers. The rise is the highest since November, 2007. New sellers' prices are now £16,000 higher than a year ago. Rightmove said that on a month-to-month basis, asking prices were up 3.3% across the country.

UK inflation slowed below the BoE's target in January for the first time in more than four years. Sterling declined for a second day as the data backed the case for the central bank to keep interest rates at a record low. British consumer prices climbed 1.9% in January from a year earlier, the ONS said. Economists had forecast the rate to stay at 2%, matching the central bank's target. Inflation has slowed from as high as 5.2% in September 2011.

Base Currency: AUD USD
 Alternate Currency: USD AUD
 Strike Price: 0.9100 0.8900
 Spot Ref: 0.9023
 Tenor: 2 weeks
 Date: 19 Feb 2014
 Time: 14:00 hrs
 Resistance / Support: 0.9194 0.8879
 Commentary:



- Australian jobless rate hits 10-year high (Thu 13-Feb).
- RBA saw more signs low rate boosting economy amid CPI puzzle (Tue 18-Feb).
- Aussie wages rise small, weakest in 17 years (Wed 19-Feb).
- RBA confident about economy (Tue 18-Feb).
- Australia pushes infrastructure as G20 growth driver (Wed 19-Feb).

Australia's unemployment rate rose to 6.0% in January, the highest level since July 2003. Unemployment in December was unrevised at 5.8%. The total number of people with jobs fell 3,700 to 11.460 million in the month, according to seasonally adjusted figures released by the ABS. The median forecast for the unemployment rate was 5.9% in January. Full-time employment fell 7,100 to 7.953 million in January and part-time employment was up 3,400 to 3.507 million. The participation rate was steady at 64.5%.

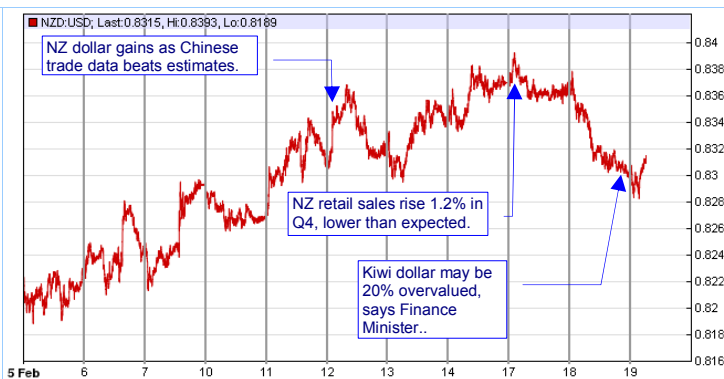
The RBA says the local economy is gaining strength thanks to the falling Australian dollar and the impact of previous interest rate cuts. In the minutes of its February 4 board meeting, the RBA made it abundantly clear that it won't be cutting the cash rate in the coming months. "If the economy evolved broadly as expected, the most prudent course would likely be a period of stability in interest rates", the RBA said in the minutes released on Tuesday. "If sustained, a lower exchange rate would be expansionary for economic activity and assist in achieving balanced growth in the economy. The board had judged that given the substantial degree of monetary policy stimulus already in place, it was prudent to keep policy unchanged, while assessing the continuing impact of that stimulus."

The RBA said in minutes released of its Feb. 4 meeting, where it kept the benchmark rate unchanged at 2.5%, that "the board noted that it was likely the inflation reading contained some noise as well as some signal about inflationary pressures, but also presented something of a puzzle in interpreting the mix of activity and price data".

Australia is aiming to coordinate strategies for debt-laden nations across the world with aging roads and bridges to invest in new projects, according to the host nation's agenda outlined ahead of this weekend's finance ministers and central bankers meeting in Sydney. Australia's bid to sell state-owned infrastructure to help fund new projects will form a centrepiece of its G20 agenda as the nation bets its plan to spur jobs.

Australian wages growth has been the weakest in at least 17 years as the mining boom slows down and unemployment climbs. Total hourly rates of pay, excluding bonuses, rose by a seasonally adjusted 0.7% in the December quarter, the ABS said on Wednesday. The wage price index rose 2.6% from a year earlier, the weakest annual growth in ABS data going back to 1997. Annual growth in the wages index averaged 2.9% last year, compared to the long-run average of 3.6%.

Base Currency: NZD USD
 Alternate Currency: USD NZD
 Strike Price: 0.8450 0.8150
 Spot Ref: 0.8315
 Tenor: 2 weeks
 Date: 19 Feb 2014
 Time: 14:00 hrs
 Resistance / Support: 0.8488 0.8171
 Commentary:



- NZ retail sales rise 1.2% in Q4, lower than expected (Mon 17-Feb).
- NZ\$5 billion increase seen for primary exports (Wed 19-Feb).
- NZ dollar slips after comments of being 20% overvalued (Tue 18-Feb).

The volume of retail sales in NZ added a seasonally adjusted 1.2% on quarter in Q4, StatsNZ said, missing forecasts for an increase of 1.7%, although it accelerated from the 0.1% gain in Q3. The volume of core retail industries, which excludes vehicle-related industries, was up 0.7%. The value of retail sales was up 1.2% on quarter.

The kiwi dollar was the weakest performer of major currencies overnight, after comments by Finance Minister Bill English that the kiwi may be 20% overvalued added to its downward momentum.

Primary sector exports "continue to boom" and prove their worth as the spine of the NZ's economy. Agriculture, forestry and fishing exports are expected to increase by NZ\$4.9 billion to NZ\$36.4 billion for the year to June 30, according to the Primary Industries Forecast. The steepest rise would be from the dairy sector, with an increase of NZ\$2.7 billion (19.5%), making the total value NZ\$16.7 billion. Meat exports are predicted to increase by NZ\$1.2 billion (22.1%), to a total value of NZ\$6.6 billion.



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