

CCY	Price	Change
AUD-USD	0.9037	0.0000
EUR-GBP	0.9081	-0.0015
EUR-USD	1.3608	-0.0006
GBP-AUD	1.6585	0.0016
GBP-CAD	1.5508	0.0007
GBP-EUR	1.1013	0.0019
GBP-NZD	2.1598	0.0095
GBP-USD	1.4987	0.0017
NZD-USD	0.6939	-0.0020
USD-CAD	1.0349	-0.0005
USD-JPY	88.88	0.0300

UK

- In data news, U.K. shop prices rose 1.7% in February compared with the corresponding period a year earlier, as food prices grew at the slowest pace for three years, driven by falling fresh food prices, the British Retail Consortium said Wednesday. Consumer confidence in the U.K. hit its highest level for two years in February, buoyed by confirmation that the economy is finally emerging from its longest recession on record, the Nationwide Building Society said Wednesday. And the number of people placed in permanent jobs in the U.K. in February rose at its fastest rate since before the credit crisis, a sign that the labor market is on the road to recovery, a monthly survey by Markit Economics showed Wednesday.
- Sterling is still getting what's likely to be a fleeting boost after recent polls indicating a stalemate in U.K. parliament is less likely than had been thought earlier this week. A hung parliament after the next election could lead to political gridlock and put additional pressures on an already stressed economy, investors fear.

Figures out today:

GBP	Nationwide Consumer Confidence (FEB)	00:01	19:01	73	73
GBP	BRC Shop Price Index (FEB)	00:01	19:01		2.3%
GBP	Purchasing Manager Index Services (FEB)	09:30	04:30	55.0	54.5

USA

Figures out today:

Country	Event	GMT	EDT	Expected	Previous
USD	ADP Employment Change (FEB)	13:15	08:15	-10K	-22K
USD	ISM Non-Manufacturing Composite (FEB)	15:00	10:00	51.0	50.5
USD	Fed Releases Beige Book Economic Report	19:00	14:00		

Europe

Figures out today:

EUR	German Retail Sales (MoM) (JAN)	07:00	02:00	-0.6%	0.8%
EUR	German Purchasing Manager Index Services (FEB F)	08:55	03:55	51.7	51.7
EUR	Euro-Zone Purchasing Manager Index Services (FEB F)	09:00	04:00	52.0	52.0
EUR	Euro-Zone Purchasing Manager Index Composite (FEB F)	09:00	04:00	53.7	53.7
EUR	Euro-Zone Retail Sales (MoM) (JAN)	10:00	05:00	-0.3%	0.0%

- U.S. Said to Tell Hedge Funds to Save Euro Trading Records: March 3 (Bloomberg) -- The U.S. is asking hedge funds not to destroy trading records on euro bets, according to a person with knowledge of the requests, as Europe and the U.S. step up scrutiny of the funds' role in the Greek debt crisis. The European Commission said yesterday it will investigate trades in sovereign credit-default swaps in the wake of the Greek crisis, which has pushed the euro lower and prompted officials to warn hedge funds they shouldn't try to profit from the woes of the region's nations.
- The Greek government is expected to outline on Wednesday a new austerity package of around EUR4 billion in an effort to cut its huge budget deficit by four percentage points this year. Greece is also preparing a 10-year bond. At the same time, Greece prepared for more work stoppages, this time from its civil servants union ADEDY. The union said that it would stage a 24-hour strike on March 16 to protest against the government's new reductions.

Commodities

- Oil fell in Asian trade as sentiment was dampened by a private report showing weaker U.S. energy demand, analysts said. New York's main contract, light sweet crude for April delivery, was seven cents lower at \$79.61 a barrel. Brent North Sea crude for April delivery dropped four cents to \$78.14 a barrel.
- Spot gold was at \$1,132.80 per troy ounce, down \$1.70 from the New York close Tuesday.

Compiled daily by Alastair Constance