

CCY		Price	Change
AUD-USD	▼	0.8844	-0.0062
EUR-GBP	▲	0.8877	0.0004
EUR-USD	▼	1.4322	-0.0017
GBP-AUD	▲	1.8243	0.0089
GBP-CAD	▲	1.7228	0.0004
GBP-EUR	▼	1.1265	-0.0006
GBP-NZD	▲	2.2771	0.0064
GBP-USD	▼	1.6133	-0.0023
NZD-USD	▼	0.7086	-0.0035
USD-CAD	▲	1.0681	0.0018
USD-JPY	▼	90.46	-0.0400

USA

- Dollar Trades Near Three-Month High on U.S. Economy Optimism: Dec. 21 (Bloomberg) -- The dollar traded near a three-month high against the euro as signs a recovery in the world's largest economy is gaining traction and concern credit costs in Europe may widen bolstered demand for the greenback. The U.S. currency may extend its biggest weekly rally since June against its major counterparts before reports this week forecast to show improving home sales in the U.S. The 16-nation euro traded near the lowest level since March against the Swiss franc after the European Central Bank raised its estimate for writedowns in the euro region. The yen climbed as Japanese exporters brought home earnings before the end of the year. The dollar traded at \$1.4333 per euro as of 6:53 a.m. in London from \$1.4349 in New York on Dec. 18 when it hit \$1.4262, the strongest level since Sept. 4. The yen was at 129.69 per euro from 129.75 last week. The U.S. currency was at 90.48 yen from 90.49 yen in New York. The euro was little changed fell 0.1 percent to 1.4939 Swiss francs after touching 1.4909 francs on Dec. 18, the lowest since March 12.
- WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A broad healthcare overhaul passed its first crucial test in the U.S. Senate on Monday, with 60 Democrats voting to put President Barack Obama's top legislative priority on a path to passage by Christmas. In a middle-of-the-night vote in a snowbound U.S. capital, Democrats unanimously backed the first in a series of three procedural motions to cut off debate and move the bill to a final vote by at least Christmas Eve. We'll get this passed before Christmas and it will be one of the best Christmas presents this Congress has ever given the American people,"

Europe

- German business confidence surges: German business confidence has surged to the highest level since mid-2008, confirming that the economic recovery in Europe's largest economy remains on track. The Munich-based Ifo institute said its business climate index rose for the ninth consecutive month, from 93.9 in November to 94.7 this month – the highest since July last year. The increase indicated economic activity is still expanding at the end of the year, with businesses optimistic about the outlook for the next six months. "After the dramatic economic collapse last winter, these survey results should bring some Christmas cheer," said Hans-Werner Sinn, Ifo's president. Germany escaped its deepest recession since the second world war in the second quarter of this year – ahead of the UK and US. Gross domestic product then expanded by 0.7 per cent in the third quarter.
- Debt fears to sour holiday mood: LONDON, Dec 18 (Reuters) - Persisting fears about sovereign and related debt from Greece to Dubai will keep investors occupied into 2010 after they enjoyed one of the best years for world stocks in the past two decades. Greek assets have taken a hammering after two credit ratings agencies downgraded the euro zone member this month on concerns about its fiscal health, blowing out spreads between Greek bonds and safer German alternatives to their widest since early April. Standard & Poor's also cut Mexico's credit ratings this week by one notch on fiscal concerns, while worries about Britain's fiscal and economic health are nagging investors after sterling hit two-month lows against the dollar this week. Such fiscal fears could easily chill sentiment for world stocks as the benchmark MSCI world equity index wraps up one of the best annual performances in its 20-year history -- up nearly 29 percent. In December however the index has barely made gains.

Commodities

- Oil Climbing as Rebound Makes Most-Accurate Forecasters Bullish: Dec. 21 (Bloomberg) -- Oil's biggest annual rally since 1999 is poised to continue with gains of 20 percent next year as the global economy recovers and OPEC curtails production, the most accurate crude forecasters say. Societe Generale SA's Mike Wittner and Hannes Loacker, at Raiffeisen Zentralbank Oesterreich AG, whose predictions this year that were within 9 percent of market levels, now say oil will end 2010 near \$88 a barrel, up from the \$73.36 close in New York on Dec. 18. The median Wall Street estimate is for a rise to \$83.
- TOKYO, Dec 21 (Reuters) - Gold prices inched up on Monday but the dollar's firmness curbed investor appetite for the metal amid light trading ahead of the Christmas holidays. Spot gold was up 0.2 percent at \$1,114.55 an ounce as of 0014 GMT, compared to New York's notional close of \$1,112.25.

Compiled daily by Alastair Constance