

**Market Commentary**

- The U.S. Shutdown Appears Over:** At least for now the Senate voted to advance a stopgap funding bill through Feb. 8 that would reopen the government after three days and the House followed suit. Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said he had assurances from Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that he will open debate on immigration legislation, though some Democrats said their party had caved.
- Wall Street Sets records as Senate Moves to End Shutdown:** S&P500 was up 0.8% at 2,833, its 11th record close of 2018. The benchmark index has risen nearly 6% since the start of the year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.6% on the day at 26,214 and the Nasdaq Composite was 1% firmer, also closed at record highs.
- Promising U.S. Economy:** The United States is projected to grow 2.7% in 2018 as President Trump's tax cuts boost growth, the International Monetary Fund said in a new report Monday, delivering more positive economic news as the president passes his one-year mark in the White House. But deep inequality remains in the country and the IMF does not expect the growth to last long.
- Pound Returns to Pre-Brexit Levels:** The British currency broke the psychological level of \$1.40 against the US dollar on Tuesday in Asia trading, securing its return to levels it traded in the run-up to Brexit and establishing the currency as one of the strongest performers so far in 2018.
- IMF Downgraded U.K. Growth:** The International Monetary Fund has downgraded its outlook for UK growth for 2019, the year of Brexit, while much of the rest of the G7 have been upgraded on the back of strengthening global economy. The IMF projects growth for Britain of 1.5% next year, down from 1.6% previously.
- Haruhiko Kuroda's Challenge Today:** The bank will Express confidence that Japanese inflation is headed toward the BOJ's target while cooling speculation that the first step in normalizing policy is nearing. While no moves are expected, investors will scrutinize the governor's words and the latest price and growth forecasts for signs that he's closer to joining his global peers in dialing back ultra-loose monetary policy.
- Oman's Economy Grows:** Oman's economy has achieved a robust 10.1% growth rate at OMR20.33 billion for the first nine months of 2017, mainly driven by a remarkable growth in crude oil prices in the international market and surge in non-oil activities. The budget deficit for the first eleven months between January and November showed a marked fall of 33% to OMR 3,296.6 million, against OMR 4,937.6 million.

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters

**Currencies**

EUR/USD	1.2266
GBP/USD	1.3992
USD/JPY	110.89
AUD/USD	0.7988
NZD/USD	0.7333
USD/CHF	0.9618
USD/CAD	1.2453

**Interbank Rates**

	USD	GBP	EUR	AED	SAR	BHD
1WK	1.46596	0.48488	-0.4243	1.3340	-	1.900
1MO	1.56128	0.49763	-0.4047	1.6200	1.6825	2.500
2MO	1.63475	0.50931	-0.3913	-	-	2.600
3MO	1.74447	0.5235	-0.3814	1.8233	1.8925	2.750
6MO	1.93175	0.58092	-0.3349	2.0627	2.08625	2.950
12MO	2.2275	0.78144	-0.2617	2.6038	2.28625	3.305

**Commodities**

Brent Crude	69.45
WTI	64.02
Gold	1337.45
Aluminum	2249.5
Copper	7068
Silver	17.09
Platinum	1000
Palladium	1093.9

**Indices**

DJIA	26,214.6
S&P 500	2,833.0
DAX	13,463.7
NIKKEI 225	24,124.2
CAC 40	5,542.0
FTSE 100	7,715.4
DFM	3,461.3
TASI	7,480.9

**Treasuries**

US2Y	2.0567
US10Y	2.6390
EU2Y	-0.6050
EU10Y	0.5670
GB2Y	0.5710
GB10Y	1.3580
SAR2Y	2.6133
SAR10Y	3.8192

**Main Economic Indicators**

Relevance	Country	Indicator	Consensus	Previous
	GE	ZEW Survey Current Situation (JAN)	89.6	89.3
	UK	ZEW Survey Expectations (JAN)	17.7	17.4
	EU	Consumer Confidence (JAN)	0.6	0.5

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