

Daily Forex Insight

KEY HEADLINES:

- The Japanese yen led other safe-haven assets higher on Friday after air strikes on Baghdad airport killed a senior Iranian military official, stoking tensions in the Middle East and lifting the price of oil. U.S. Treasury bonds and gold rallied after an Iraqi militia spokesman told Reuters that Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis were killed in the attack. U.S. officials told Reuters that strikes had been carried out against two targets linked to Iran in Baghdad. Oil prices jumped \$2 a barrel. The dollar eased 0.46% to 108.07 yen following the news, breaching several layers of chart support and reaching its lowest since early November. The euro also dipped to a three-week low at 120.78 yen. The yen is often used as a safe harbour during times of global tensions given Japan's status as the world's largest creditor nation. A holiday in Tokyo also made for thin conditions, exaggerating the move.
- The pound slid at the start of 2020, halting a winning streak that capped its most successful quarter in a decade. The currency led losses among peers against the dollar, pulling back after a six-day run that saw it gain 2.5% before the new year. Such reversals are not uncommon in year-end holiday periods, given trading volumes are thin, said Lee Hardman, a currency strategist at MUFG Bank Ltd. Sterling traders are factoring in the chances that the U.K. won't be able to negotiate a free-trading agreement with the European Union by the end-2020 deadline, even as the risk of a crash exit from the bloc this month has been lifted. That saw the pound gain nearly 8% in the fourth quarter of 2019, the most since 2009 and making it the best performer among peers.
- > The number of Americans filing claims for jobless benefits edged lower last week, a positive signal for the U.S. labor market amid recent signs that new claims may be trending slightly higher. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits decreased 2,000 to a seasonally adjusted 222,000 for the week ended Dec. 28, the Labor Department said on Thursday. Economists polled by Reuters had expected 225,000 new claims last week. While claims have been volatile in recent weeks around the U.S. holiday season and end of the year, longer-term averages suggest the strength in claims data may have ebbed slightly in recent months.

Economic Indicators to be released.

Indicator	Currency	Forecast	Previous	Impact
German Unemployment Change	EUR	3K	-16K	MEDIUM
ISM Manufacturing PMI	USD	49.0	48.1	HIGH
Construction PMI	GBP	45.8	45.3	MEDIUM
Natural Gas Storage	USD	-60B	-161B	MEDIUM
Crude Oil Inventories	USD	-3.1M	-5.5M	HIGH

Support Resistance Levels - Currency Future:

Currency	LTP	S1	S2	R1	R2	Trend
USDINR FUTURE	71.52	71.45	71.38	71.60	71.70	BULLISH
EURINR FUTURE	80.17	80.05	79.90	80.40	80.55	Sideways
GBPINR FUTURE	94.45	94.25	94.00	94.65	94.85	Sideways
JPYINR FUTURE	65.77	65.70	65.60	66.00	66.20	BULLISH

RESEARCH BONANZA FOREIGN CURRENCY SEGMENT

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