

CCY		Price	Change
AUD-USD	▲	0.9106	0.0013
EUR-GBP	▲	0.9079	0.0029
EUR-USD	▼	1.3617	-0.0018
GBP-AUD	▼	1.6473	-0.0098
GBP-CAD	▼	1.5416	-0.0061
GBP-EUR	▼	1.1017	-0.0033
GBP-NZD	▼	2.1440	-0.0058
GBP-USD	▼	1.5000	-0.0066
NZD-USD	▼	0.6999	-0.0013
USD-CAD	▲	1.0276	0.0003
USD-JPY	▼	90.08	-0.2300

## USA

- TOKYO, March 8 (Reuters) - The dollar extended its gains against the yen to hit a two-week high on Monday as the yen slipped against other major currencies as better-than-expected U.S. jobs data encouraged investors looking to bet on riskier assets.
- Any speculation that China might stop supporting the dollar in the next few years is absolute nonsense, a top state banker said. Li Ruogu, chairman of Export-Import Bank of China, a lender tasked with supporting the country's foreign investments, said that a collapse in the dollar's value would damage Chinese interests. China should focus instead on trying to stabilize the dollar and on preserving its status as the leading global currency, said Li, a former deputy central bank governor. He added: "As China has a huge sum of foreign exchange reserves, a dollar collapse would bring nothing good to China." China has \$2.4 trillion in official reserves, the largest stockpile in the world, and bankers believe about two-thirds of the total is invested in dollar assets.

## UK

- Sterling gave back earlier gains versus the dollar on Monday as appetite for risk waned and overall sentiment towards the pound remained uncertain. There is much uncertainty about where power would go in a hung parliament and together with the need to tackle the budget deficit, sterling can weaken further over the coming months.
- The threat of further asset purchases from the Bank of England to try and stimulate growth in the UK economy was also likely to weigh on the pound. "The outlook for the UK economy is still very challenging indeed. There's still a chance the BoE will restart their asset purchases, which would be sterling negative" said RBS currency strategist Paul Robson.

### Figures out today:

GBP Visible Trade Balance (Pounds) (JAN) 09:30 04:30 -7.000B -7.278B

## Europe

- Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou on Monday urged the Group of 20 nations to crack down on market speculators, warning that failing to do so could trigger another global financial crisis. Papandreou blamed speculators for Greece's woes, and warned that a fresh financial crisis could be triggered if their activities were not reined in.
- NEW YORK, March 8 (Reuters) - The euro was slightly up against the dollar on Monday as concerns about Greece's fiscal crisis eased after French President Nicolas Sarkozy said there are plans to support the debt-strapped country, if necessary. Sarkozy promised Greece that the euro zone would help it overcome its financial problems and vowed a European crackdown on speculators. The pledge helped lower Greece's borrowing costs and the price of insuring Greek debt against default. Still, Greece has not ruled out the possibility of going to the International Monetary Fund as a last resort if it needs aid, a step that might call into question the unity of the euro zone.
- Euro stability is looking to be improved by attempting to prevent another flare up of panic surrounding the health of Greece (or any number of struggling European Union members), news has gotten out that officials are working to create a European Monetary Fund that would act much like the IMF as a lender of last resort for the EU nations.

### Figures out today:

CHF Consumer Price Index (YoY) (FEB) 08:15 03:15 1.0% 1.0%

## Commodities

- U.S. crude for April fell 29 cents to \$81.58 a barrel by 0722 GMT (2:22 a.m. ET), after touching \$82.41 on Monday, the highest level since prices jumped to a 15-month high of \$83.95 on January 11. London ICE Brent for April declined 24 cents to \$80.23.

### Compiled daily by Alastair Constance