

CCY	Price	Change
GBP-USD	1.5827	-0.0003
GBP-EUR	1.2042	0.0012
EUR-GBP	0.8304	-0.0006
EUR-USD	1.3142	-0.0017
USD-JPY	76.13	-0.0800

Indices	Price	Change
FTSE	5,780.99	-9.78
DAX	6,622.19	-17.86
DOW	12,716.35	83.48
S&P	1,324.09	11.63
OIL	97.65	0.52
GOLD	1,747.42	4.30

UK

- LONDON, Feb 1 (Reuters) - Sterling climbed to a two-and-a-half month high against the dollar on Wednesday, supported by a surprise return to growth in the UK manufacturing sector, although it lagged the euro as the data did little to alter expectations of more monetary stimulus. Most recent UK data, including GDP numbers, has shown the economy is on the brink of recession, raising expectations the Bank of England will step up its asset purchase programme next month to support the flagging economy. January's manufacturing PMI eased some of those *worries*, but did little to change the market's forecast of more quantitative easing by the BoE next week. That is likely to undermine the pound in the near term, especially against the dollar. Sterling was last up 0.6 percent at \$1.5855 having hit a session high of \$1.5884, its highest level since Nov. 18. The pound rallied in line with other perceived riskier currencies versus a broadly weak dollar, triggering reported stop loss orders through \$1.5800, where traders cited an options barrier, and \$1.5820. It was lower against the euro, with the common currency trading 0.3 percent higher at 83.22 pence. Traders cited euro buying against sterling by a U.S. bank, with solid bids at 82.65 likely to provide near term support.

Figures out today:

GBP	GBP Purchasing Manager Index Construction	09:30	04:30	52.50	53.20
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USA

- Bloomberg: The dollar weakened against most of its 16 major counterparts as Asian stocks extended a global rally ahead of U.S. data that may show an improving job market, curbing demand for refuge assets. The MSCI Asia Pacific Index of shares gained 1.1 percent, heading for the biggest advance in almost two weeks, after the Standard & Poor's 500 Index rose 0.9 percent yesterday. Applications for unemployment payments in the U.S. probably fell to 371,000 in the week ended Jan. 28 from 377,000 the previous week, according to the median estimate of economists in a Bloomberg News survey. The Labor Department will release the figures today.

Figures out today:

USD	USD Initial Jobless Claims	13:30	08:30	375K	377K
USD	USD Continuing Claims	13:30	08:30	3560K	3554K
USD	USD Fed's Bernanke Testifies Before House Budget Committee	15:00	10:00		

Europe

Figures out today:

EUR	EUR Euro-Zone Producer Price Index (MoM)	10:00	05:00	-0.10%	0.20%
EUR	EUR Euro-Zone Producer Price Index (YoY)	10:00	05:00	4.30%	5.30%

Australia

- Bloomberg: Australia's dollar reached a five-month high after a report showed the nation's trade surplus widened in December to A\$1.71 billion (\$1.83 billion) from a revised A\$1.34 billion the previous month. Economists had estimated a surplus of A\$1.2 billion. The so-called Aussie climbed 0.2 percent to \$1.0726 after touching \$1.0757, the most since Sept. 1. New Zealand's dollar, nicknamed the kiwi, added 0.2 percent to 83.39 U.S. cents. "The so-called risk currencies like Aussie and kiwi can be very well-supported," said Joseph Capurso, a foreign-exchange strategist in Sydney at Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Russia

- Bloomberg: The ruble appreciated against the dollar, poised for its strongest close since Oct. 31 after Urals crude oil, Russia's main export blend, rose to its highest price in almost three months. The Russian currency rose 0.2 percent to 30.1747 and was little changed at 39.7611 per euro and 34.4858 against the central bank's target dollar-euro basket. Investors increased bets the ruble would weaken, with non-deliverable forwards showing the Russian currency at 30.5506 per dollar in three months, compared with expectations of 30.5345 yesterday. Urals climbed 0.8 percent to \$111.64 by yesterday's close, the highest price since Nov. 15. The commodity has risen 5.6 percent in 2012 as threatened supply disruptions from Iran and Nigeria drive up prices.

Compiled daily by Alastair Constance