Daily Market Brief

August 17th 2026

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS (Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD
The EUR/USD pair builds on last week's bounce from the vicinity of the 1.1500 psychological mark and attracts follow-through buyers for the third straight day. The momentum lifts spot prices to a two-month high during the Asian session, with bulls now awaiting a move beyond the 1.1600 round figure before placing fresh bets amid a broadly weaker US Dollar (USD). The USD Index (DXY), which tracks the Greenback against a basket of currencies, languishes near the lower end of the monthly range as Friday's weak US data further tempered bets for an immediate rate hike by the Federal Reserve (Fed). In fact, the US Census Bureau reported that Retail Sales fell 0.6% in July, marking the biggest monthly fall since May last year and pointing to a slowdown in consumer spending. This comes on top of signs of moderating price pressures, which gives the US central bank headroom to keep interest rates steady.

GBP/USD
The GBP/USD pair attracts some dip-buyers at the start of a new week and climbs above mid-1.3500s during the Asian session, closer to over a three-month high touched on Friday. Moreover, the prevalent US Dollar (USD) selling bias favors bullish traders and suggests that the path of least resistance for spot prices remains to the upside. The US inflation data released last week painted a picture of moderating price pressures. Moreover, data released on Friday showed that US Retail Sales fell 0.6% in July, marking the biggest monthly fall since May last year and pointing to a slowdown in consumer spending.

USD/JPY
USD/JPY loses ground for the second successive day, trading around 159.10 during the Asian hours on Monday. The pair depreciates as the Japanese Yen JPY remains stronger following the release of Japan's preliminary Q2 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data. Japanese economy expanded 0.3% over the quarter in Q2 2026, following a 0.5% growth in Q1 and falling short of market expectations of 0.5%. On an annualized basis, Japan's GDP grew 1.1%, compared with forecasts of 2.0% and the previous quarter's 1.8% growth.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1586	1.1588	1.1564	0.14	0.37	-1.36
GBP-USD	1.3554	1.3557	1.3531	0.12	0.35	0.59
USD-JPY	159.06	159.40	158.96	-0.16	0.14	-1.48
USD-CHF	0.8113	0.8135	0.8112	-0.25	-0.14	-2.30
Commodities	**Last**	**High**	**Low**	**% Daily**	**% Weekly**	**% YTD**
Gold	4399.36	4416.53	4367.32	0.52	0.19	1.85
Silver	65.82	66.23	64.56	1.76	0.12	-8.15
Crude Oil	82.15	83.04	81.72	-0.30	0.02	44.10
Bitcoin	63438.60	63541.88	62693.51	0.68	-0.17	-27.62
Etherium	1898.91	1906.02	1868.10	0.99	0.75	-36.23

Period	1M	3M	6M	12M
SOFR ($)	3.64	3.73	3.83	3.97
ESTR (€)	2.61	2.36	2.47	2.61
SONIA (£)	3.74	3.80	3.92	4.13
SARON (₣)	-0.05	-0.05	-0.03	0.05
TONAR (¥)	0.96	0.88	0.80	0.67

	Rates
U.S. Federal Fund Target Rate	3.75
ECB Main Refinancing Operation Announcement Rate	2.4
ECB Deposit Facility Announcement Rate	2.25
ECB Marginal Lending Facility Announcement Rate	2.65
BOE Official Bank Rate	3.75

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MARKETS (Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
The S&P 500 slid on Friday after a record-setting session, though the benchmark still notched its third consecutive weekly advance. The broad market index closed down 0.2% to end the day at 7,785.76, while the Nasdaq Composite shed 0.3% to 26,729.16. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 107.58 points, or 0.2%, to 53,732.41. For the week, the S&P 500 advanced 0.4%. The Nasdaq also eked out its third weekly gain in a row, ending the week higher by 0.1%. The Dow closed 0.6% lower week to date.

EUROPE
European shares finished lower on Friday and snapped a four-week winning streak, as rising crude prices and renewed geopolitical tensions offset support from a resilient earnings season. The STOXX 600 ended 0.2% lower at 657.86 and logged a 0.3% drop on a weekly basis. Still, the euro zone benchmark was within 1% of a record high, having rallied about 3% in the previous four weeks, underpinned by better-than-expected second-quarter earnings.

Asia
Asia-Pacific markets opened mixed Monday. Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.4%, while the Topix declined 0.11% after Japan's economy expanded 1.1% in the second quarter on an annualized basis, missing expectations for 2% growth. Australia's benchmark S&P/ASX 200 was down 0.39%, while South Korean markets were closed for a holiday.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	53732.41	-0.20	3.04	11.80	53774.00	-0.10
S&P	7785.76	-0.17	4.40	13.74	7817.75	0.12
Nasdaq	26729.16	-0.28	4.74	15.00	30275.00	0.35
DJ EuroStoxx50	6539.59	-0.09	4.95	12.92	6575.00	0.26
FTSE 100	10750.11	-0.21	1.41	8.24	10807.00	0.16
CAC 40	8636.80	-0.16	3.57	5.98	8660.50	-0.18
DAX	26440.31	0.53	6.48	7.96	26561.00	0.20
IBEX 35	20156.60	-0.06	4.89	16.46	20163.10	-0.18
FTSE MIB	53583.61	-0.20	3.28	19.22	53713.00	-0.21
Nikkei	68713.80	0.35	7.50	36.97	69090.00	0.41
Hang Seng	25116.85	1.68	3.98	-0.35	25540.00	1.69
DFM General	5885.64	-0.38	1.23	-2.67		
MSCI Tadawoul	10919.68	0.89	1.86	4.09		

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	71.15	71.25	70.25	-2.80	1.64	-15.30
Solidere B	71.10	72.00	70.00	0.14	-2.60	-14.03
EuroBonds	26.75 / 27.75					

MUST READ (Source: Bloomberg/Forexlive)

Bitcoin ETFs See Largest Outflow in Six Weeks as Token Stagnates

US-listed spot Bitcoin ETFs experienced their largest weekly outflows since late June, with $389.7 million withdrawn during the week of August 10. This reversed the previous week's strong performance, when the funds attracted $853.5 million, the biggest weekly inflow since April. The earlier surge in demand followed a security breach involving Coldcard offline wallets, which renewed interest in gaining Bitcoin exposure through regulated financial products rather than directly holding and securing cryptocurrency. However, analysts now view that inflow as temporary, with institutional sentiment remaining cautious. Bitcoin itself has struggled to gain momentum, trading around $63,000–$63,400 and remaining roughly 50% below its record high from October 2025. Concerns about potentially higher interest rates are limiting investor appetite, while stalled progress on the proposed US Clarity Act, which aims to establish a regulatory framework for crypto markets, is adding uncertainty. Bitcoin's price also remained relatively stable, moving within a narrow 2% range during the week. Meanwhile, implied volatility stayed below its annual average, suggesting limited expectations for major short-term price swings. Because Bitcoin ETFs are a major channel for institutional investment, continued outflows could signal weakening demand and potentially put additional pressure on Bitcoin's price and market liquidity.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
H WORLD GROUP	HTHT	$ 12.88 B	17-Aug-26	Bef-mkt	17.87	15.54
HOME DEPOT INC	HD	$ 337.88 B	18-Aug-26	Bef-mkt	4.72	4.68
KEYSIGHT TECHN(	KEYS	$ 61.15 B	18-Aug-26	Aft-mkt	2.48	1.72
TARGET CORP	TGT	$ 70.16 B	19-Aug-26	Bef-mkt	2.96	2.05
ALIBABA GROUP I	BABA	$ 296.78 B	20-Aug-26	Bef-mkt	10.80	14.75

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(17-08-26) JN - GDP Annualized SA QoQ
(17-08-26) JN - Industrial Production MoM
(17-08-26) JN - Tertiary Industry Index MoM
(17-08-26) US - Empire Manufacturing
(17-08-26) CA - CPI YoY
(18-08-26) UK - ILO Unemployment Rate 3Mths
(18-08-26) UK - Jobless Claims Change

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