Daily Market Brief

May 21st 2026

BANQUE BEMO

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS *(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)*

EUR/USD
The EUR/USD pair struggles to capitalize on the previous day's bounce from the 1.1585-1.1580 region, or its lowest level since April 7, and seesaws between tepid gains/minor losses during the Asian session on Thursday. Spot prices, however, manage to hold above the 1.1600 mark as traders await further developments surrounding the Middle East crisis. Despite renewed hopes for a de-escalation in the Iran conflict, investors remain skeptical about a US-Iran peace deal amid major disagreements over Tehran's nuclear program and a standoff over the critical Strait of Hormuz. Furthermore, hawkish FOMC Minutes reaffirmed bets for an interest rate hike in 2026, which helps limit the US Dollar's (USD) corrective pullback from a six-week low and acts as a headwind for the EUR/USD pair.

GBP/USD
The GBP/USD pair holds steady around 1.3435 during the Asian trading hours on Thursday. However, a sharp slowdown in UK inflation and uncertainty surrounding US–Iran talks could weigh on the British Pound (GBP) against the US Dollar (USD). Traders await the preliminary readings of the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for May from the UK and the US, which are due later on Thursday. The UK headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation eased to 2.8% over the year in April from 3.3% in March, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed on Wednesday. This figure came in softer than the expectation of 3.0%. Additionally, the core CPI, excluding volatile food and energy items, rose 2.5% year-over-year in April, versus 3.1% prior and below the market consensus of 2.6%.

USD/JPY
The USD/JPY pair trades calmly around 159.00 during the Asian trading session on Thursday. The pair turns sideways as investors await fresh developments regarding negotiations between the United States (US) and Iran, after President Donald Trump stated on Wednesday that talks are in “final stages”. As of writing, the US Dollar Index (DXY), which tracks the Greenback's value against six major currencies, trades marginally higher to near 99.20. The DXY’s rally hit pause on Wednesday after posting a fresh six-week high at 99.47, following US President Trump expressing confidence that a deal with Iran would be finalized soon.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1620	1.1635	1.1616	-0.03	-0.42	-1.07
GBP-USD	1.3430	1.3445	1.3419	-0.04	0.20	-0.33
USD-JPY	159.03	159.05	158.81	0.07	-0.42	-1.46
USD-CHF	0.7871	0.7876	0.7862	0.00	-0.43	0.70
Commodities	**Last**	**High**	**Low**	**% Daily**	**% Weekly**	**% YTD**
Gold	4525.23	4570.78	4518.69	-0.42	-2.72	4.77
Silver	75.06	76.95	74.96	-1.11	-10.14	4.74
Crude Oil	99.31	100.11	98.50	1.07	2.47	74.11
Bitcoin	77791.73	78105.29	77166.20	0.17	-0.54	-11.24
Etherium	2139.31	2155.15	2116.82	0.24	-1.88	-28.16

Period	1M	3M	6M	12M
SOFR ($)	3.60	3.64	3.69	3.82
ESTR (€)	2.45	2.12	2.26	2.45
SONIA (£)	3.74	3.82	3.96	4.22
SARON (₣)	-0.05	-0.05	-0.03	0.08
TONAR (¥)	0.72	0.72	0.68	0.57

	Rates
U.S. Federal Fund Target Rate	3.75
ECB Main Refinancing Operation Announcement Rate	2.15
ECB Deposit Facility Announcement Rate	2.00
ECB Marginal Lending Facility Announcement Rate	2.40
BOE Official Bank Rate	3.75

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MARKETS *(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Stocks jumped on Wednesday as oil prices and U.S. Treasury yields slid amid growing optimism that the conflict in the Middle East could soon be resolved. Traders also looked ahead to the release of Nvidia’s first-quarter earnings report. The Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced 645.47 points, or 1.31%, closing at 50,009.35. The S&P 500 rose 1.08% to 7,432.97, while the Nasdaq Composite

EUROPE
European stocks advanced on Wednesday, as global markets keep a close eye on elevated bond yields and a lower-than-expected U.K. inflation print. The pan-European Stoxx 600 finished the day 1.5% higher, with most sectors and regional bourses in positive territory. Miners, banks and tech stocks led gains, while media stocks lagged the broader index.

Asia
Asia-Pacific markets traded higher Thursday, tracking Wall Street gains, as growing hopes that the Middle East conflict could end soon cooled oil prices. U.S. President Donald Trump said that Washington was in the “final stages” of negotiations with Iran, according to a pool report, helping lift investor optimism. Oil prices have seen a sharp rise as the Trump administration blockades Iranian ports, while the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most critical energy waterways, has been effectively closed by Tehran. Japan’s Nikkei 225 was 3.52% higher after the release of the country’s latest trade data.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	50009.35	1.31	1.75	4.05	50013.00	-0.10
S&P	7432.97	1.08	5.22	8.58	7445.50	-0.03
Nasdaq	26270.36	1.54	8.29	13.03	29366.75	-0.01
DJ EuroStoxx50	5976.07	2.13	0.77	3.19	5975.00	0.15
FTSE 100	10432.34	0.99	-0.63	5.04	10416.50	-0.05
CAC 40	8117.42	1.70	-1.44	-0.39	8096.50	1.71
DAX	24737.24	1.38	1.92	1.01	24757.00	0.01
IBEX 35	18051.70	2.16	-0.50	4.30	18054.80	1.97
FTSE MIB	49181.66	1.71	2.67	9.43	49258.00	1.71
Nikkei	59804.41	3.62	4.42	23.10	61890.00	1.82
Hang Seng	25651.12	-0.09	-3.24	-0.01	25514.00	0.04
DFM General	5626.91	-0.62	-4.28	-6.95		
MSCI Tadawoul	10985.56	0.03	-3.17	4.72		

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	70.20	70.20	70.10	-0.71	-6.40	-16.43
Solidere B	72.50	74.90	70.00	3.57	3.57	-12.33
EuroBonds	24.125 / 25.125					

MUST READ *(Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)*

Nvidia Tells Skeptical Investors AI Is Set to Go Mainstream

Nvidia said artificial intelligence (AI) demand is expected to spread beyond major cloud companies and become more widely adopted by businesses, industries, and governments. CEO Jensen Huang explained that while large data center operators have fueled Nvidia’s growth so far, future opportunities will come from enterprise AI, robotics, and autonomous vehicles. He described the rapid AI expansion as the “largest infrastructure expansion in human history.” The company reported strong financial results, although investors remained cautious and Nvidia shares slipped about 1% after the announcement. Revenue for the quarter ending April 26 rose 85% to $81.6 billion, exceeding expectations, while adjusted earnings reached $1.87 per share. Nvidia also raised its dividend and announced $80 billion in stock buybacks. The company forecast next-quarter revenue of $91 billion, higher than analysts’ average estimates. Nvidia continues to dominate the AI accelerator market, but competition is growing. Companies such as AMD, Broadcom, and Google are developing rival AI chips, while major customers are creating their own processors. Despite this, Nvidia’s data center business generated $75.2 billion in revenue, reflecting strong demand for AI infrastructure. The company is also expanding into CPUs and AI inference chips. However, US export restrictions continue to limit Nvidia’s access to the Chinese market, which it believes could eventually generate $50 billion annually.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
WALMART INC	WMT	$ 1043.00 B	21-May-26	Bef-mkt	0.66	0.61
DEERE & CO	DE	$ 151.38 B	21-May-26	Bef-mkt	5.70	6.64
ZOOM COMMUN	ZM	$ 29.30 B	21-May-26	Aft-mkt	1.42	1.53
WORKDAY INC-CL	WDAY	$ 31.61 B	21-May-26	Aft-mkt	2.53	2.23
ZSCALER INC	ZS	$ 28.05 B	26-May-26	Aft-mkt	1.01	0.84

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(21-05-26) JN - Core Machine Orders MoM
(21-05-26) AU - Unemployment Change
(21-05-26) EC - S&P Global Eurozone Manufacturing PMI
(21-05-26) UK - S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI
(21-05-26) US - Initial Jobless Claims
(21-05-26) US - Housing Starts
(21-05-26) US - S&P Global Manufacturing PMI

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