

Daily Market Brief

August 26th 2026



FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD
The EUR/USD pair trades in negative territory near 1.1665 during the early European trading hours on Wednesday, pressured by a rebound in the US Dollar (USD). Markets turn cautious ahead of the release of the key US July Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index report later on Wednesday. Economists expect that inflationary pressures remain sticky due to ongoing energy risks from the Middle East conflict. The Core PCE, excluding food and energy, is projected to see a rise of 3.3% YoY in July. Any signs of hotter inflation in the US could bolster the case for a US interest rate hike in September and lift the Greenback against the Euro (EUR).

GBP/USD
The GBP/USD pair trades with a negative bias below mid-1.3600s during the Asian session on Wednesday, eroding a part of the previous day's strong gains. Spot prices, however, remain within striking distance of a six-month top, set last Friday, as traders keenly await the release of the US Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index data for a fresh impetus. The crucial US inflation data, along with Federal Reserve (Fed) Chair Kevin Warsh's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium on Friday, will be scrutinized for cues about the US central bank's interest rate path. Apart from this, developments surrounding the Middle East crisis would play a key role in determining the near-term trajectory for the US Dollar (USD) and the GBP/USD pair.

USD/JPY
The USD/JPY pair loses ground to near 158.90 during the Asian trading hours on Wednesday. The US Treasury's bond buyback programs weigh on the US Dollar (USD) against the Japanese Yen (JPY). The US July Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index data will be in the spotlight later on Wednesday ahead of the Jackson Hole symposium on Friday. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said last week that the US Department of the Treasury will double its bond buyback operations to at least \$4 billion per operation, up from the current \$2 billion maximum, in an effort to stabilize surging long-term borrowing costs. US Treasury bond buybacks raise concerns as national debt surpasses \$40 trillion, dragging the Greenback lower.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1665	1.1677	1.1661	-0.09	-0.10	-0.69
GBP-USD	1.3635	1.3651	1.3630	-0.10	0.21	1.19
USD-JPY	159.00	159.26	158.88	-0.12	-0.52	-1.44
USD-CHF	0.8033	0.8036	0.8011	0.22	-0.73	-1.33
Commodities	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
Gold	4638.96	4673.80	4630.04	-0.39	2.73	7.40
Silver	69.22	69.73	68.21	0.81	3.34	-3.42
Crude Oil	80.87	81.31	80.08	-1.81	-4.17	42.00
Bitcoin	79039.26	79235.62	77921.38	1.07	1.98	-9.82
Etherium	2463.55	2472.81	2415.26	1.11	0.94	-17.27
Period	1M	3M	6M	12M		
SOFR (\$)	3.68	3.76	3.86	4.01		
ESTR (€)	2.61	2.39	2.48	2.61		
SONIA (£)	3.75	3.80	3.92	4.12		
SARON (F)	-0.06	-0.06	-0.04	0.01		
TONAR (¥)	0.96	0.91	0.81	0.69		

	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 rose slightly Tuesday, as Treasury yields fell for a second day. A rally in semiconductor stocks lifted the Nasdaq Composite. The broader index gained 0.32% to close at 7,677.28, while the Nasdaq Composite advanced 0.66% to 26,151.30. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 160.24 points, or 0.3%, to close at 53,577.40 and notch its third straight winning session.

EUROPE
European shares rose on Tuesday as investors took comfort from a softer-than-feared U.S. sanctions package on Iran and falling oil prices, with gains in heavyweight industrials and healthcare stocks lifting the benchmark. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's fresh measures to stifle Iran economically had limited impact on markets, as Washington stopped short of imposing any penalties on Tehran's trading partners. The healthcare sector led gains with a 1.2% rise. Novo Nordisk advanced 2.9% after JPMorgan raised its price target for the Danish obesity drug maker, citing increased long-term sales forecasts. Peer Zealand Pharma climbed 5.6%.

Asia
Asia-Pacific markets opened mixed on Wednesday. Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 0.5%, while the Topix opened flat. South Korea's Kospi was down 0.12%, but the small-cap Kosdaq advanced 0.16%. Australia's benchmark S&P/ASX 200 was 0.34% higher.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	53577.40	0.30	3.14	11.47	53624.00	-0.01
S&P	7677.28	0.32	3.58	12.15	7681.75	-0.10
Nasdaq	26151.30	0.66	4.71	12.52	29217.50	-0.14
DJ EuroStoxx50	6455.63	0.12	2.78	11.47	6480.00	0.11
FTSE 100	10886.16	0.29	1.40	9.61	10930.00	0.16
CAC 40	8439.20	-0.16	0.80	3.55	8471.50	-0.15
DAX	26266.14	0.61	4.65	7.25	26317.00	-0.08
IBEX 35	20056.60	-0.21	2.41	15.88	20125.30	-0.14
FTSE MIB	52720.31	0.34	1.77	17.30	52823.00	0.33
Nikkei	65856.43	0.66	2.60	31.69	66300.00	0.53
Hang Seng	25511.10	0.75	2.96	0.28	25728.00	0.63
DFM General	5834.57	-0.53	0.82	-3.51		
MSCI Tadawoul	11231.61	0.51	4.32	7.06		
Leb. Mkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	70.30	70.30	70.30	-3.23	0.36	-16.31
Solidere B	72.00	72.00	72.00	0.00	3.37	-12.94
EuroBonds	27.125 / 28.125					

MUST READ

(Source: Bloomberg/Forexlive)

SoftBank Mulls Up to \$20 Billion Bond Sale for OpenAI Financing

SoftBank Group is considering a \$10-\$20 billion bond sale to help refinance the \$40 billion bridge loan it used to finance its investment in OpenAI. The bonds could be issued in US dollars and euros as early as September, although the final amount and structure have not been decided. SoftBank is expected to invest nearly \$65 billion in OpenAI by October, partly financed through borrowing. The proposed bond sale would help reduce its reliance on the bridge loan and could become the largest bond deal by an Asian company this year if it reaches \$20 billion. For the first time in more than a decade, SoftBank is considering a 144A bond offering, allowing it to access a broader pool of US institutional investors. The company previously issued \$3.6 billion in dollar- and euro-denominated bonds in April, including a 10-year dollar bond with an 8.5% coupon, reflecting its relatively high borrowing costs. SoftBank is also raising money through a ¥1 trillion (\$6.3 billion) Japanese retail bond sale and has secured a \$10 billion margin loan backed by its OpenAI stake. The fundraising highlights the enormous capital requirements of the AI boom, while also raising concerns about increasing debt levels and whether massive AI investments will generate sufficient returns.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
NVIDIA CORP	NVDA	\$ 5155.81 B	26-Aug-26	Aft-mkt	2.09	1.05
CROWDSTRIKE HC	CRWD	\$ 188.76 B	26-Aug-26	Aft-mkt	0.28	0.23
HP INC	HPQ	\$ 27.00 B	26-Aug-26	Aft-mkt	0.66	0.75
WORKDAY INC-CL	WDAY	\$ 48.02 B	27-Aug-26	Aft-mkt	2.61	2.21
MARVELL TECHN	MRVL	\$ 210.28 B	27-Aug-26	Aft-mkt	0.93	0.67

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(26-08-26) AU - CPI YoY
(26-08-26) US - MBA Mortgage Applications
(26-08-26) US - Personal Income Spending
(26-08-26) US - Durable Goods Orders
(26-08-26) US - GDP Annualized QoQ
(27-08-26) US - Wholesale Inventories MoM
(27-08-26) US - Initial Jobless Claims

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