

Daily Market Brief

September 17th 2026



FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD

The EUR/USD pair declines to around 1.1460 during Asian trading hours on Thursday. The Euro (EUR) weakens against the US Dollar (USD) following an interest rate hike from the US Federal Reserve (Fed). The US Initial Jobless Claims data will be released later on Thursday. The US central bank raised the benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points (bps) to a 3.75%-4.00% range at its September policy meeting on Wednesday, as widely expected. This marks the Fed's first interest rate hike in three years. Fed Chairman Kevin Warsh said during the press conference that inflation has been "too high ... for too long." Updated projections the committee showed that a strong majority of Fed officials think another hike is possible later this year.

GBP/USD

The British Pound (GBP) is under severe pressure against the US Dollar (USD) during the early European trading session on Thursday, holding onto recent losses near 1.3378. The GBP/USD pair remains vulnerable as the US Dollar outperforms, following the Federal Reserve's (Fed) monetary policy announcement on Wednesday. The British currency is expected to remain highly volatile as the Bank of England (BoE) is scheduled to announce its monetary policy at 11:00 GMT.

USD/JPY

The USD/JPY pair edges lower during the Asian session on Thursday, snapping a three-day winning streak and eroding a part of the previous day's gains to a nearly two-week high. Spot prices currently trade around the 156.00 mark as the focus now shifts to the highly anticipated Bank of Japan (BoJ) rate decision on Friday. The Japanese central bank is universally expected to raise its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points (bps) to a 31-year high of 1.25% at the end of the September policy meeting. Moreover, traders have been pricing in a greater chance of a follow-through up move in December amid inflation risks stemming from higher energy prices. This, in turn, is seen as offering some support to the Japanese Yen (JPY) and weighing on the USD/JPY pair.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1464	1.1473	1.1456	-0.01	-1.27	-2.40
GBP-USD	1.3382	1.3388	1.3369	0.01	-0.96	-0.69
USD-JPY	155.95	156.32	155.88	-0.20	-0.98	0.49
USD-CHF	0.8255	0.8263	0.8245	-0.02	-1.54	-3.99
Commodities	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
Gold	4295.40	4318.22	4257.64	0.74	-0.53	-0.55
Silver	63.69	64.17	62.48	1.12	0.13	-11.13
Crude Oil	101.73	102.47	101.07	-0.68	-0.73	78.63
Bitcoin	76377.85	76704.70	75587.45	0.36	-1.00	-12.86
Etherium	2439.73	2444.43	2386.68	1.28	-3.19	-18.07
Period	1M	3M	6M	12M		
SOFR (\$)	3.89	3.98	4.13	4.39		
ESTR (€)	2.97	2.51	2.69	2.97		
SONIA (£)	3.76	3.87	4.06	4.39		
SARON (F)	-0.04	-0.03	0.01	0.17		
TONAR (¥)	0.96	0.97	0.84	0.72		

	Rates
U.S. Federal Fund Target Rate	4.00
ECB Main Refinancing Operation Announcement Rate	2.65
ECB Deposit Facility Announcement Rate	2.50
ECB Marginal Lending Facility Announcement Rate	2.90
BOE Official Bank Rate	3.75

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell on Wednesday after the Federal Reserve hiked interest rates for the first time in three years and central bank Chairman Kevin Warsh highlighted persistent inflation. In a unanimous decision, the Fed raised the overnight funds rate by a quarter percentage point, bringing the target range to between 3.75% and 4%. That marked the first hike from the central bank since July 2023. The central bank also signaled another hike could come this year.

EUROPE

European shares edged up from the previous session's three-month low on Wednesday as a pause in the oil price rally lifted risk appetite ahead of the Federal Reserve's policy decision, with the U.S. central bank widely expected to deliver its first rate hike since 2023. The pan-European STOXX 600 rose 0.5% to 637.09 points, with major regional indexes also gaining. Inflation risks stemming from the Iran conflict have forced investors to reassess the outlook for interest rates, pushing global bond yields higher and pressuring higher-risk assets.

Asia

Asia-Pacific markets traded higher early Thursday. Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.87%, while the Topix rose 0.71%. The Kospi advanced 1% at the open, while the small-cap Kosdaq gained 0.57%. Australia's benchmark S&P/ASX 200 inched 0.16% higher.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	51461.90	-1.21	-3.74	7.07	51780.00	0.56
S&P	7551.81	-0.45	-2.50	10.32	7592.00	0.51
Nasdaq	25978.43	-0.01	-2.50	11.77	29101.00	0.55
DJ EuroStoxx50	6266.50	0.48	-4.04	8.20	6296.00	0.41
FTSE 100	10688.47	0.28	-0.30	7.62	10713.50	0.53
CAC 40	8140.59	0.62	-5.12	-0.11	8143.50	0.60
DAX	25537.75	0.53	-3.04	4.28	25665.00	0.51
IBEX 35	19635.80	0.41	-1.73	13.45	19669.20	0.44
FTSE MIB	51969.12	0.80	-3.02	15.63	51988.00	0.80
Nikkei	63923.00	0.27	-7.41	27.32	63840.00	0.13
Hang Seng	24713.78	-0.85	-3.73	-4.40	24472.00	-0.77
DFM General	5966.65	0.66	1.89	-1.33		
MSCI Tadawoul	10779.96	-0.02	-1.17	2.76		
Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	70.50	70.50	70.50	0.79	-0.63	-16.07
Solidere B	72.00	72.00	72.00	0.00	0.00	-12.94
EuroBonds	26.875 / 27.875					

MUST READ

(Source: Bloomberg/Foxlive)

Warsh Defies Trump's Calls for Rate Cut as War Stokes Inflation

Kevin Warsh, the newly appointed Federal Reserve chairman, has surprised skeptics by leading the Fed to its first interest-rate hike in more than three years. The unanimous decision raised the policy rate to 3.75%-4%, despite President Donald Trump's repeated demands for lower borrowing costs. Warsh had previously argued that rates were too high and predicted that technological advances, particularly in artificial intelligence, could generate strong economic growth without increasing inflation. However, the economic environment has changed as war, tariffs, and heavy AI investment have contributed to persistent price pressures. Inflation has remained above the Fed's 2% target for more than five years, while August inflation accelerated more than expected. Trump criticized the Fed's decision and called for rates of 1% or lower, but stopped short of directly attacking Warsh. Bond investors, meanwhile, welcomed the hike as evidence that the Fed remains independent and serious about controlling inflation. Treasury yields rose, while longer-term inflation expectations declined and US stocks fell. New Fed projections suggest further increases may be possible, with most officials forecasting another hike before year-end. However, some economists argue that higher rates may do little to address supply-driven inflation while increasing risks to employment and financial conditions.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
AUTOZONE INC	AZO	\$ 46.51 B	22-Sep-26	Bef-mkt	54.51	48.71
PAYCHEX INC	PAYX	\$ 41.55 B	23-Sep-26	Bef-mkt	1.32	1.22
CINTAS CORP	CTAS	\$ 79.92 B	23-Sep-26	Bef-mkt	1.35	1.20
COSTCO WHOLE	COST	\$ 396.35 B	24-Sep-26	Aft-mkt	6.53	5.87
JEFFERIES FINAN	JEF	\$ 10.92 B	28-Sep-26	Aft-mkt	0.93	1.01

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(17-09-26) EC - CPI YoY / MoM
(17-09-26) UK - Bank of England Bank Rate
(17-09-26) US - Initial Jobless Claims
(17-09-26) US - Housing Starts
(18-09-26) JN - Natl CPI YoY
(18-09-26) UK - Retail Sales Inc Auto Fuel MoM
(18-09-26) US - Industrial Production MoM

CONTACT

Banque BEMO sal
Asset Management Unit

Ashrafieh, Elias Sarkis Ave., BEMO Bldg, 4th Floor
P.O.Box 16-6353 Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +961 1 325405/6/7/8/9

Disclaimer: This report is published for information purposes only. The information herein has been compiled from, or based upon sources we believe to be reliable, but we do not guarantee or accept responsibility for its completeness and accuracy. This document should not be construed as a solicitation to take part in any investment, or as constituting any representation or warranty on our part. The investment risks described herein are not purported to be exhaustive, any person considering an investment should seek independent advice on the suitability or otherwise of the particular investment. Investment, Capital Market and Treasury products are subject to investment risk, including possible loss of principal amount invested. Past performance is not indicative of future results: prices can go up or down. Investors investing in investments and/or treasury products denominated in foreign (non-local) currency should be aware of the risk of exchange rate fluctuations that may cause loss of principal when foreign currency is converted to the investor's home currency. Client understands that it is his/her responsibility to seek legal and/or tax advice regarding the legal and tax consequences of his/her investment transactions. The consequences of any action taken on the basis of information contained herein are solely the responsibility of the recipient.