Daily Market Brief

May 22nd 2026

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD
The EUR/USD pair trades with mild losses around 1.1615 during the early European trading hours on Friday. The Euro (EUR) remains weak against the US Dollar (USD) amid mixed headlines surrounding the US-Iran peace deal. Germany's IFO surveys and Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index report will be released later in the day. Traders will closely monitor the progress of US-Iran ceasefire talks. Iranian officials said that the latest proposal from the US partly narrowed the gap between the warring sides, but comments from the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader about keeping Tehran's uranium stockpile and a dispute over tolls in the Strait of Hormuz clouded the outlook for a breakthrough.

GBP/USD
The GBP/USD pair is seen oscillating in a narrow trading band during the Asian session on Friday, though it remains on track to register modest weekly gains. Spot prices remain capped near the 100-day Exponential Moving Average (EMA) and currently trade around the 1.3425-1.3430 region, nearly unchanged for the day. The British Pound (GBP) has been struggling to attract any meaningful buyers amid mixed signals over the Bank of England's (BoE) policy outlook and the UK political uncertainty. In fact, Swati Dhingra, an external MPC member, said that the BoE might not need to raise rates if its "scenario B" - where higher energy prices have only moderate second-round effects - materialises. In contrast, fellow external member Catherine Mann warned that high inflation in late 2026 could become embedded in wage deals for 2027.

USD/JPY
The USD/JPY pair gains ground to around 159.10 during the early Asian session on Friday. Softer Japan inflation data weighs on the Japanese Yen (JPY) against the US Dollar (USD). The US May Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index report will be released later on Friday. Data released by the Japan Statistics Bureau on Friday showed that the National Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 1.4% YoY in April, compared to 1.5% in March. Meanwhile, Japan's core CPI climbed by 1.4% YoY in April, marking the slowest annual pace in four years.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1616	1.1622	1.1609	-0.03	-0.08	-1.11
GBP-USD	1.3431	1.3435	1.3423	0.00	0.79	-0.33
USD-JPY	159.08	159.12	158.91	0.06	-0.21	-1.49
USD-CHF	0.7864	0.7872	0.7862	-0.04	0.06	0.79
Commodities	**Last**	**High**	**Low**	**% Daily**	**% Weekly**	**% YTD**
Gold	4528.44	4545.92	4518.75	-0.32	-0.26	4.84
Silver	76.52	76.95	75.78	-0.20	0.70	6.78
Crude Oil	97.70	98.35	96.92	1.40	-3.29	71.28
Bitcoin	77586.51	77823.93	77259.34	-0.06	-0.84	-11.48
Etherium	2132.11	2139.60	2123.96	-0.21	-2.57	-28.40

Period	1M	3M	6M	12M
SOFR ($)	3.58	3.64	3.70	3.86
ESTR (€)	2.42	2.13	2.27	2.42
SONIA (£)	3.74	3.80	3.93	4.18
SARON (₣)	-0.05	-0.05	-0.02	0.09
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
The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose to a record close Thursday as oil prices and Treasury yields were volatile, with traders hoping for a resolution to the Middle East conflict. The blue-chip index gained 276.31 points, or 0.55%, for a closing record of 50,285.66. The S&P 500 advanced 0.17% to 7,445.72, while the Nasdaq Composite increased 0.09% to end at 26,293.10.

EUROPE
European stocks were volatile on Thursday after Iran's Supreme Leader ordered that the country's near-weapons-grade uranium should not be sent abroad, threatening to complicate peace talks with the U.S. The pan-European Stoxx 600 finished the day marginally higher after oscillating between gains and losses throughout the session. All major bourses and most sectors turned green in mid-afternoon trade.

Asia
Asia-Pacific markets traded higher Friday as investors assess U.S.-Iran diplomatic efforts at reaching a peace deal in the Middle East. Tehran intending to keep its enriched uranium stockpile within the country, according to a Reuters report, could complicate negotiations with Washington, as President Donald Trump has made dismantling Iran's nuclear program a central objective of his military action against Tehran. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 1.36%, while the Topix added 0.55%. Japan's core inflation eased more than expected in April to its lowest level since March 2022, weakening the case for an early rate hike by the Bank of Japan.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	50285.66	0.55	1.61	4.62	50541.00	0.31
S&P	7445.72	0.17	4.31	8.77	7492.50	0.37
Nasdaq	26293.10	0.09	6.63	13.13	29583.50	0.51
DJ EuroStoxx50	5960.32	-0.26	0.92	2.92	6033.00	1.02
FTSE 100	10443.47	0.11	-0.31	5.16	10525.00	0.42
CAC 40	8086.00	-0.39	-0.86	-0.78	8065.50	-0.38
DAX	24606.77	-0.53	1.70	0.48	24922.00	0.98
IBEX 35	17975.20	-0.42	-0.17	3.86	18029.50	-0.14
FTSE MIB	49168.70	-0.03	2.89	9.40	49238.00	-0.04
Nikkei	61684.14	2.76	6.38	25.92	63440.00	6.23
Hang Seng	25386.52	1.31	-1.70	0.34	25664.00	1.21
DFM General	5660.69	0.60	-2.67	-6.39		
MSCI Tadawoul	11027.54	0.38	-1.43	5.12		

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	71.00	71.00	71.00	1.14	1.43	-15.48
Solidere B	72.50	72.50	72.50	0.00	3.57	-12.33
EuroBonds	24.75 / 25.75					

MUST READ

(Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)

U.S. Puts $2 Billion in Quantum Firms as Bitcoin Security Debate Grows

The U.S. government is expanding its investment in quantum computing, committing more than $2 billion through the CHIPS program to strengthen domestic quantum technology development. The Department of Commerce announced plans to support nine companies, including IBM, GlobalFoundries, D-Wave, Rigetti, Infleqtion, PsiQuantum, Quantinuum, Atom Computing, and Diraq. In return, the government will take minority, non-controlling equity stakes, signaling a stronger industrial-policy approach toward strategic technologies. IBM is expected to receive $1 billion to create a quantum foundry focused on superconducting wafers, while GlobalFoundries will receive $375 million to expand U.S.-based manufacturing for multiple quantum architectures. Other funding targets include technologies such as neutral-atom, photonic, trapped-ion, silicon-spin, and superconducting quantum systems. The announcement also intensifies discussion around "Q-Day," the hypothetical moment when quantum computers become capable of breaking current cryptographic systems used by cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum. Experts warn that public blockchains may be especially vulnerable because transaction data exposes public keys onchain. Although practical quantum decryption is not imminent, the funding shows governments increasingly view quantum technology as a national-security priority rather than leaving it solely to private industry.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
ZSCALER INC	ZS	$ 27.50 B	26-May-26	Aft-mkt	1.01	0.84
AUTOZONE INC	AZO	$ 56.65 B	26-May-26	Bef-mkt	36.15	35.36
MARVELL TECHN(	MRVL	$ 171.11 B	27-May-26	Aft-mkt	0.80	0.62
SNOWFLAKE INC	SNOW	$ 57.38 B	27-May-26	Aft-mkt	0.32	0.24
HP INC	HPQ	$ 20.03 B	27-May-26	Aft-mkt	0.71	0.71

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(22-05-26) JN - Natl CPI YoY
(22-05-26) UK - Retail Sales Inc Auto Fuel MoM
(22-05-26) US - U. of Mich. Sentiment
(26-05-26) US - Conf. Board Consumer Confidence
(27-05-26) US - MBA Mortgage Applications
(28-05-26) US - Personal Income / Spending
(28-05-26) US - Durable Goods Orders

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