Daily Market Brief

October 28th 2026

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD

The EUR/USD pair trades on a weaker note near 1.1120 during the early European trading hours on Wednesday. Markets could turn cautious later in the day ahead of the Federal Reserve (Fed) interest rate decision on Wednesday. On Thursday, the European Central Bank (ECB) policy meeting will be in the spotlight. Markets expect the Fed to hold benchmark rates steady in a range of 3.75%-4.00% when it releases its decision Wednesday. Fed funds futures are pricing in an implied 92.8% chance the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) will keep its policy interest rate on hold, according to the CME FedWatch tool. The likelihood of a US rate hike in December stands at 84.4%.

GBP/USD

The GBP/USD pair extends the decline to around 1.3300 during the Asian trading hours on Wednesday. The British Pound (GBP) softens against the US Dollar (USD) amid cautious mood ahead of UK Budget and Federal Reserve (Fed) interest rate decision on Wednesday. UK Finance Minister John Healey is set to present his first budget later in the day, facing mounting pressure to deliver measures that can ease the cost-of-living burden on households while providing support to businesses. Nonetheless, his options are limited by high government borrowing costs and the big tax increases implemented by his predecessor, Rachel Reeves.

USD/JPY

USD/JPY continues its winning streak for the fourth consecutive day, trading around 158.00 during Asian hours on Wednesday. The pair appreciates as the Japanese Yen (JPY) faces challenges amid rising crude oil prices, which place renewed cost pressures on major energy-importing economies. Oil prices rose as global financial markets tracked ongoing election results in Israel that could shift the course of the Middle East conflict. Exit polls suggest a tightly contested election, showing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tied with opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot, leaving neither bloc with a clear majority as counting continues. Despite the deadlock, the preliminary results point to diminishing support for Netanyahu, who has been a dominant force in Israeli politics while leading the country through nearly three years of conflict.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1119	1.1132	1.1116	-0.05	-1.01	-5.34
GBP-USD	1.3283	1.3313	1.3281	-0.17	-0.83	-1.42
USD-JPY	157.88	158.04	157.75	-0.04	0.16	-0.74
USD-CHF	0.8306	0.8309	0.8283	0.18	-0.75	-4.58
Commodities	**Last**	**High**	**Low**	**% Daily**	**% Weekly**	**% YTD**
Gold	4030.82	4070.79	4028.25	-0.72	-2.65	-6.68
Silver	53.82	54.54	53.73	-1.11	-7.16	-24.89
Crude Oil	101.54	101.77	99.75	1.64	4.52	78.39
Bitcoin	80804.20	81179.38	80510.10	0.16	-0.64	-7.81
Etherium	2351.03	2365.19	2336.99	0.41	-2.03	-21.05

Period	1M	3M	6M	12M
SOFR ($)	3.93	4.06	4.19	4.43
ESTR (€)	2.89	2.53	2.66	2.89
SONIA (£)	3.91	4.03	4.23	4.58
SARON (F)	-0.06	-0.04	0.00	0.13
TONAR (¥)	1.21	1.06	0.94	0.80

	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 S&P 500 rose on Tuesday as enthusiasm surrounding chipmakers led traders to move into the names for another day. Investors also monitored a slide in oil prices and parsed through a slew of corporate earnings as the Federal Reserve began its two-day policy meeting. Shares of Broadcom climbed 4% on the heels of a coalition of banks — namely, Bank of America, Citi and Morgan Stanley — and Blackstone announcing $63 billion in financing for the purchase of Broadcom's technology for Anthropic. Other chipmakers rose in sympathy. Micron Technology was up almost 3%, while Advanced Micro Devices gained 5%.

EUROPE

Strong earnings and a pullback in crude prices helped European shares close higher on Tuesday, erasing losses from earlier in the session when HSBC weighed on sentiment following a quarterly revenue miss. The pan-European STOXX 600 index rose 0.47% to 643.68 points, after falling as much as 0.41% earlier in the day.

Asia

Asia-Pacific markets traded higher early Wednesday. Japan's Nikkei 225 added over 0.74% while the Topix rose 0.32%. The Kospi gained 2.06% at open, while the small-cap Kosdaq rose 1.78%. Australia's benchmark S&P/ASX 200 was 0.84% higher.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	52377.57	0.03	1.74	8.98	52421.00	-0.29
S&P	7722.60	0.60	0.51	12.81	7760.25	0.03
Nasdaq	26477.81	1.18	-1.28	13.92	29952.25	0.48
DJ EuroStoxx50	6164.69	0.79	-2.17	6.45	6167.00	-0.36
FTSE 100	10686.54	-0.75	0.02	7.60	10691.00	-1.03
CAC 40	7887.14	0.51	-2.37	-3.22	7903.50	0.50
DAX	25590.77	0.71	0.85	4.49	25638.00	-0.31
IBEX 35	19160.60	0.67	-2.24	10.70	19156.00	0.69
FTSE MIB	49627.95	0.90	-4.12	10.42	49297.00	0.88
Nikkei	63268.37	1.22	-2.79	27.22	64450.00	0.90
Hang Seng	23041.32	0.24	-6.28	-9.89	23106.00	0.38
DFM General	5864.43	-0.26	-2.49	-3.27		
MSCI Tadawoul	9986.45	2.30	-5.60	-4.81		

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	68.85	68.95	68.75	-0.22	-0.79	-18.04
Solidere B	67.80	67.80	67.80	0.00	-2.09	-18.02
EuroBonds	25.50 / 26.50					

MUST READ

(Source: Bloomberg/ Reuters)

SK Hynix's Profit Surge, $45 Billion Payout Fuel AI Rally

SK Hynix reported a sevenfold increase in quarterly operating profit, reaching 83.3 trillion won ($62.5 billion) and exceeding market expectations by more than 7%. Driven by booming artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure investment, the company announced plans to return an additional 60 trillion won (approximately $45 billion) to shareholders through dividends and share buybacks, on top of an earlier 40 trillion won commitment. The company expects memory chip shortages to continue until at least 2030, with conventional memory and high-bandwidth memory (HBM), essential for Nvidia's AI processors, already sold out through 2029. SK Hynix plans significant capacity expansion while prioritizing long-term customer contracts. Its strong outlook reflects persistent supply constraints and rising memory prices, which have significantly boosted profit margins. The announcement triggered a regional semiconductor stock rally, with SK Hynix shares rising over 10% and Samsung Electronics gaining more than 9%. Investors welcomed the results as evidence that AI-related demand remains strong despite growing concerns about the financial viability of large data-center projects and a potential AI bubble. Analysts expect earnings growth to continue into 2027, supported by rising demand for advanced memory used in AI computing and inference. Meanwhile, SK Hynix's subsidiary Solidigm is reportedly discussing a $45 billion investment in a new US chip plant after shelving plans for a public listing. Overall, strong AI demand, limited supply, rising prices, and substantial shareholder returns are reinforcing confidence in SK Hynix and the broader semiconductor industry.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
MICROSOFT CORP	MSFT	$ 3945.88 B	28-Oct-26	Aft-mkt	4.73	4.13
ALPHABET INC-CL	GOOGL	$ 3898.40 B	28-Oct-26	Aft-mkt	3.32	3.39
FORD MOTOR CO	F	$ 46.69 B	28-Oct-26	Aft-mkt	0.41	0.45
INTEL CORP	INTC	$ 495.42 B	29-Oct-26	Aft-mkt	0.40	0.23
AMAZON.COM IN	AMZN	$ 2730.02 B	29-Oct-26	Aft-mkt	2.30	2.16

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(28-10-26) AU - CPI YoY / QoQ
(28-10-26) US - MBA Mortgage Applications
(28-10-26) US - Wholesale Inventories MoM
(28-10-26) CA - Bank of Canada Rate Decision
(28-10-26) US - FOMC Rate Decision
(29-10-26) UK - Mortgage Approvals
(29-10-26) US - Personal Income / Spending

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