

August 21, 2026

Contact Information

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	21/08/2026	14/08/2026	% Change	YTD
Euro / LBP	104,661	103,543	1.08%	-0.43%
Euro / Dollar	1.1701	1.1559	1.23%	-0.37%
NEER Index	125.80	125.66	0.11%	-44.20%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

The Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) of the Lebanese pound rose by 0.11% this week, reaching 125.8 points on August 21st, 2026, against a basket of 21 influential currencies – including the Euro and British pound.

International Forex Market

	21/08/2026	14/08/2026	% Change	Status
Dollars index = DXY	98.76	99.67	-0.91%	Weakened
Euro (EUR/USD)	1.1701	1.1559	1.23%	Strengthened
U.K. Pound (GBP/USD)	1.3646	1.353	0.86%	Strengthened
Swiss Franc (USD/CHF)	0.8004	0.8131	-1.56%	Strengthened
Chinese Yuan (USD/CNY)	6.7202	6.7412	-0.31%	Strengthened
Japanese Yen (USD/JPY)	158.8	159.3	-0.31%	Strengthened
Australia \$ (AUD/USD)	0.7156	0.7081	1.06%	Strengthened
Canadian \$ (USD/CAD)	1.3753	1.3891	-0.99%	Strengthened

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In international currency markets this week, the **US Dollar Index** – a measure of the US currency's weakened against a basket of six rivals – dropped by 0.91% to 98.76 points, mainly driven by US treasury department's declaration on Wednesday regarding its plan to at least double its long-term debt buybacks in an effort to contain borrowing costs and especially longer term bonds, driving Treasury yields and the dollar sharply lower. Moreover, latest US economic data

do not support Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC)'s rate hike decision in which retail sales for July unexpectedly dropped and consumer sentiment decreased.

As US Dollar weakens, other currencies strengthen against it.

The **Euro** strengthened by 1.23% over the week, as market is pricing an 84% probability of 25 bps interest rate hike by European Central Bank (ECB) in September in contrast to the consensus of the decision to be taken by FOMC. ECB's expected decision is aimed to fight prices increase especially that European's natural gas prices increased above €65 per MWh on Friday, the highest level since January 2023.

The **British Pound** also strengthened over the course of the week, supported by reinforced expectations of tighter monetary policy by Bank of England, after acceleration in consumer price inflation to four-month high in July.

MENA Forex Market

	21/08/2026	14/08/2026	% Change	Status
Egyptian Pound (USD/EGP)	50.8200	50.2300	1.17%	Weakened
Turkish Lira (USD/TRY)	48.0599	47.8791	0.38%	Weakened
Syrian Pound (USD/SYP)	121.5	121.5	0.00%	-
Iranian Rial (USD/IRR)	1,374,050	1,374,126	-0.01%	Strengthened
Kuwaiti Dinar (USD/KWD)	0.3067	0.3072	-0.16%	Strengthened
Moroccan Dirham (USD/MAD)	9.23	9.2747	-0.48%	Strengthened
Tunisian Dinar (USD/TND)	2.8794	2.9057	-0.91%	Strengthened
Algerian Dinar (USD/DZD)	132.7813	132.5124	0.20%	Weakened

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N.B.:

- Saudi Riyal, UAE Dirham, Qatari Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, and Omani Rial are all pegged to the US dollar.
- The Kuwaiti Dinar is pegged to a basket of currencies that includes the dollar.
- Outside the GCC, the Iraqi Dinar and the Jordanian Dinar are also pegged to the US dollar.

Commodities

	21/08/2026	14/08/2026	% Change
Gold	4,563.04	4,376.40	4.26%
Silver	69.36	64.68	7.22%
Brent Crude Oil	93.26	88.52	5.35%
WTI Crude Oil	86.22	82.4	4.64%

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In commodity markets, **Gold** edged up by 4.26% over the course of the week and heading towards third consecutive weekly gain, to record \$4,563.04 per ounce, driven by heightened instability across currency and bond markets due to US Treasury department's announcement on Wednesday. As borrowing costs are expected to reduce, opportunity cost for holding non-income generating precious metals decline. Moreover, the persistent geo-political tension in the Middle East led investors to buy gold as a safe haven especially that the probability of rates hike is decreasing due to recent weak US economic data. In addition, gold was reinforced by strong investment demand as central banks continued purchasing gold and particularly China.

Silver recorded a stronger weekly gain of 7.22%, recording \$69.36 per ounce. Silver's stronger gains are attributed to solid industrial demand from green energy transition, photovoltaic solar panels, electric vehicles, and artificial intelligence data center infrastructure. For instance, Chinese imports of silver-bearing metals rose 62.5% on an annual basis in June to 219 thousand tons, in line with the growing production for solar panels and electricity grids to adapt for the mounting electrification trend urged by the central government.

Oil also posted gains and heading for second consecutive weekly gain. Brent crude oil increased by 5.35% and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) increased by 4.64%. These weekly advance was mainly attributed to persistent geo-political tensions that are affecting shipping activity in Hormuz Strait. The uncertainty regarding the tension between the United States and Iran didn't ease the ambiguity regarding the control over the key shipping route where almost 20% of energy supplies used to pass through before the tensions surrounding it. Lately, US President Trump declared that the US is going to isolate Iran's economy and described it as "economic D-day" without providing additional details. However,

the additional support from US refineries, and Gulf producers' continued moving significant part of its supply to alternative routes, supported prices and prevented it from witnessing high increases.

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