

September 25, 2026

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Lebanese Forex Market

	25/9/2026	18/9/2026	% Change	YTD
Euro / LBP	101,791	102,791	-0.97%	-3.16%
Euro / Dollar	1.1392	1.1486	-0.82%	-3.01%
NEER Index	127.64	127.27	0.29%	-43.38%

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

The Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) of the Lebanese pound rose by 0.29% this week, reaching 127.64 points on September 25th, 2026, against a basket of 21 influential currencies – including the Euro and British pound.

International Forex Market

	25/9/2026	18/9/2026	% Change	Status
Dollars index = DXY	101.14	100.22	0.92%	Strengthened
Euro (EUR/USD)	1.1392	1.1486	-0.82%	Weakened
U.K. Pound (GBP/USD)	1.3238	1.3395	-1.17%	Weakened
Swiss Franc (USD/CHF)	0.8288	0.8224	0.78%	Weakened
Chinese Yuan (USD/CNY)	6.7129	6.6977	0.23%	Weakened
Japanese Yen (USD/JPY)	158.18	156.88	0.83%	Weakened
Australia \$ (AUD/USD)	0.7028	0.7121	-1.31%	Weakened
Canadian \$ (USD/CAD)	1.4149	1.3987	1.16%	Weakened

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

In international currency markets this week, the **US Dollar Index** – a measure of the US currency's strengthened against a basket of six rivals – rose by 0.92% to 101.14 points. The greenback was supported by increasing expectations of further

Federal Reserve tightening following last week's rate hike and repeated comments from Fed officials emphasizing persistent inflation risks. Strong US economic data reinforced this outlook, with private sector activity expanding strongly and initial jobless claims falling to a two-month low. Higher oil prices later in the week also raised inflation concerns, strengthening expectations that monetary policy could remain tighter and providing additional support to the dollar.

The **Euro** weakened by 0.82%, with EUR/USD declining from 1.1486 to 1.1392. The main source of pressure was the stronger US dollar as markets increasingly expected additional Federal Reserve rate hikes. Moreover, political uncertainty in Germany and concerns over France's public finances also weighed on sentiment earlier in the week. Although stronger Eurozone private sector activity and improving German business sentiment increased expectations of further ECB tightening, these supportive factors were not enough to offset dollar strength and continued uncertainty surrounding energy prices.

The **British Pound** recorded the largest decline after the Australian dollar, weakening by 1.17%, as GBP/USD fell from 1.3395 to 1.3238. Sterling was pressured by the strengthening US dollar, weaker than expected UK economic indicators and concerns surrounding the domestic fiscal outlook. The UK budget deficit came in above expectations, while September business activity expanded at a slower than expected pace. Although markets continued to anticipate the possibility of a Bank of England rate hike in November, uncertainty over energy prices and the broader economic outlook limited support for the pound.

The **Japanese Yen** weakened by 0.83% over the week, with USD/JPY rising from 156.88 to 158.18. The depreciation was mainly driven by a stronger US dollar and rising Treasury yields as expectations for further Federal Reserve tightening increased. At the same time, the Bank of Japan's latest rate hike was viewed as insufficiently restrictive, reinforcing expectations that Japan's tightening cycle could proceed more gradually than that of the US. Slower Japanese manufacturing growth also weighed on the currency, while the yen's approach toward the 160 level kept markets alert to the possibility of intervention by Japanese authorities.

The **Chinese Yuan** weakened by 0.23%, with USD/CNY rising from 6.6977 to 6.7129. The yuan came under pressure as the US dollar strengthened on growing expectations of further Federal Reserve rate hikes. Sentiment was also affected by uncertainty surrounding US-China relations, particularly the extension of the trade truce and the outcome of the Trump-Xi summit. Although optimism surrounding bilateral talks had initially supported the yuan, however, the absence of a clear breakthrough and continued differences between the two sides contributed to its modest weekly decline.

MENA Forex Market

	25/9/2026	18/9/2026	% Change	Status
Egyptian Pound (USD/EGP)	51.7800	52.1300	-0.67%	Strengthened
Turkish Lira (USD/TRY)	48.9652	48.7779	0.38%	Weakened
Syrian Pound (USD/SYP)	121.5	121.5	0.00%	Unchanged
Iranian Rial (USD/IRR)	1,374,100	1,374,100	0.00%	Unchanged
Kuwaiti Dinar (USD/KWD)	0.30765	0.3073	0.11%	Weakened
Moroccan Dirham (USD/MAD)	9.603	9.5068	1.01%	Weakened
Tunisian Dinar (USD/TND)	2.9557	2.9361	0.67%	Weakened
Algerian Dinar (USD/DZD)	133.63	133.7334	-0.08%	Strengthened

*prices are as of the time of writing this report

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.

Notably, across the **MENA** foreign exchange market, currency movements were mixed but generally moderate this week, with several currencies weakening against the US dollar. The **Egyptian Pound** recorded the most notable positive movement, strengthening by 0.67%, from 52.13 to 51.78 per dollar, despite the broader strength of the greenback during the week. The **US Dollar** was supported by growing expectations of further Federal Reserve tightening, resilient economic data and renewed inflation concerns, creating a less supportive backdrop for regional currencies. Elsewhere, the **Moroccan Dirham** weakened by 1.01%,

marking the largest decline in the region, while the **Tunisian Dinar** and **Turkish Lira** fell by 0.67% and 0.38%, respectively. The Kuwaiti Dinar edged down by 0.11%, while the **Syrian Pound** and **Iranian Rial** remained unchanged. Meanwhile, the **Algerian Dinar** strengthened marginally by 0.08%, leaving overall MENA currency performance relatively mixed during the week.

Commodities

	25/9/2026	18/9/2026	% Change
Gold	4,294.21	4,378.63	-1.93%
Silver	64.58	66.26	-2.54%
Brent Crude Oil	105.15	103.87	1.23%
WTI Crude Oil	92.81	100.3	-7.47%

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In commodity markets, **Gold** fell by 1.93% over the week to \$4,294.21/Oz, pressured mainly by a stronger US dollar and rising Treasury yields. Strong US economic and labor market data reinforced expectations of further Federal Reserve tightening, weighing on the non-yielding metal. While softer oil prices and persistent geopolitical uncertainty offered some support during the week, they were not enough to offset the pressure from higher interest-rate expectations.

Silver declined by 2.54% to \$64.58/Oz, similarly weighed down by a stronger dollar, higher Treasury yields and growing expectations of additional Fed rate hikes. The metal briefly benefited from falling oil prices, which eased inflation concerns, but stronger US economic data and expectations of tighter monetary policy ultimately dominated sentiment.

Oil markets remained volatile amid shifting developments surrounding the US-Iran conflict and energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz. **Brent** gained 1.23% to \$105.15/barrel, supported by renewed Middle East tensions, disrupted Gulf shipping and concerns over regional supplies. In contrast, **WTI** fell 7.47% to \$92.81/barrel, as diplomatic efforts between the US and Iran and prospects of reopening Hormuz weighed on prices, alongside rising US crude inventories. By week end, reports of a potential phased US-Iran agreement added further downward pressure, although geopolitical and supply risks remained elevated.

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