

28 October 2026

Global Markets Research

Daily Market Highlights

28 Oct: All eyes on the FOMC meeting today

Extended tech rally; US treasuries barely moved; USD strengthened

Rebound in US consumer confidence; capex growth remained resilient

Expect FOMC to hold and RBNZ to hike; UK's Autumn budget is also up on deck

- Tuesday saw the Anthropic-led tech rally extending gains another day, pushing the Nasdaq up 1.2% d/d higher. S&P 500 and the Dow also gained, albeit at a narrower pace of 0-0.6% d/d with traders cautious on developments on the geopolitical front, ahead of the slew of corporate earnings this week which includes Alphabet, Microsoft and Amazon, and as the FOMC began its 2-day policy meeting.
- Brent (\$113.88/barrel) and the WTI (\$99.90/barrel) slipped 1.7-1.8% d/d with traders monitoring the renewed diplomatic push to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East, and the outcome of the Israeli election which could dictate the course of the war.
- In Europe, Stoxx 600 gained 0.5% d/d with sentiment lifted by the retreat in crude oil prices. By sector, energy and consumer stocks underperformed, while tech and financials outperformed, the latter despite the disappointing HSBC results overnight.
- Asian bourses closed mixed but are likely to gain today amid the renewed AI optimism, softer crude oil prices and tracking the futures. Nikkei 225 closed the day 1.7% d/d up, while Hang Seng and CSI 300 slid 0.7-1.3% d/d overnight.
- In the bond space, treasury and European sovereign bond yields barely moved ahead of FOMC and ECB's decisions later in the week. The 2Y treasury yield rose 2bps to 4.74%, while the 10Y increased 1bps to 5.00%. 10Y European bond yields closed mixed between +/-2bps, while the 2Y closed mostly lower between 0-3bps.
- In the forex space, steady slew of economic data supported the Dollar against most of its G10 peers, sending the DXY 0.4% d/d higher at 102.32. EUR, GBP and JPY weakened in tune to 0.3-0.4% d/d to 1.1125, 1.3306 and 157.95, while AUD was the outlier, strengthening 0.1% d/d to 0.7025 against the greenback.
- Regional currencies closed mixed, but CNH outperformed most of its peers following the improved industrial profits data released overnight. CNH closed just above its flatline at

Key Market Metrics

	Level	d/d (%)
Equities		
Dow Jones	52,377.57	0.03
S&P 500	7,722.60	0.60
NASDAQ	26,477.81	1.18
Stoxx Eur 600	643.68	0.47
FTSE 100	10,686.54	-0.75
Nikkei 225	63,268.37	1.73
CSI 300	4,049.55	-1.32
Hang Seng	23,041.32	-0.73
Straits Times	5,397.03	0.00
KLCI 30	1,611.85	0.47
FX		
Dollar Index	102.32	0.35
EUR/USD	1.1125	-0.44
GBP/USD	1.3306	-0.27
USD/JPY	157.95	0.29
AUD/USD	0.7025	0.11
USD/CNH	6.6647	-0.04
USD/MYR	4.0890	0.03
USD/SGD	1.2811	0.02
USD/KHR	4,080.75	-0.02
USD/THB	33.77	-0.14
Commodities		
WTI (\$/bbl)	99.90	-1.83
Brent (\$/bbl)	113.88	-1.67
Gold (\$/oz)	4,058.80	0.91
Copper (\$/MT)	14,474.50	1.03
Aluminum(\$/MT)	3,087.00	1.53
CPO (RM/MT)	4,462.00	-2.11

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

6.6647, while MYR and SGD closed marginally weaker at 4.0890 and 1.2811 against the USD.

US consumer confidence rose for the first time in 4 months, durable goods orders increased by the most in 5 months

- October's Conference Board Consumer Confidence rebounded more than expected to 91.7 from 84.2 previously as consumers' appraisals of both the present situation (120.4 vs 111.8) and expectations for the future (72.6 vs 65.7) improved m/m. The recovery was in line with the softer retail gasoline prices, yet despite this blip, consumer confidence has remained on a largely downward trend over the past few months.
- Durable goods orders increased more than expected and by the most in 5 months at 1.8% m/m in September (prior: 0.1% m/m) following stronger bookings for aircraft, and still solid gains for core capital goods (0.5% vs 1.6% m/m) like machinery and electronic products. Led by the AI infrastructure buildout, the latest print reinforces a strong capex picture in 3Q, although some firms have indicated that their future investment plans will hinge on the outcome of the mid-term elections as well as the Fed funds rate.
- Housing indicators remained the soft patch in the US economy. Although narrower than expected, new home sales fell 0.6% m/m in September (prior: 5.1% m/m) as a broadly softer home prices failed to offset the recent surge in mortgage rates. With customer demand so weak, builders have only slowly worked down the inventories (8.4 months at the current sales pace vs 8.5 months), and likely to weigh on home prices going forward.
- In fact, separate data by the FHFA showed that the House Price Index grew at softer pace of 2.4% y/y in August (prior: 2.5% y/y), but the S&P Cotality Case-Shiller Home Price Index unexpectedly accelerated to 2.1% y/y (prior: 1.9% y/y).

Strongest industrial profit growth for China in 3 months

- Industrial profits saw its strongest growth in 3 months at 14.4% y/y in September, picking up momentum from 4.2% y/y previously. A rebound in PPI and strong AI-related hardware and materials likely contributed to the headline, but profits remained lopsided, favourable for mining and electronics, but still sluggish for traditional sectors.

House View and Forecasts

FX	This Week	4Q-26	1Q-27	2Q-27	3Q-27
DX	100-103	102.22	100.87	99.53	98.21
EUR/USD	1.11-1.13	1.12	1.14	1.16	1.18
GBP/USD	1.32-1.36	1.31	1.32	1.33	1.34

USD/CHF	0.80-0.83	0.79	0.80	0.81	0.84
USD/JPY	155-159	157	155	153	150
AUD/USD	0.69-0.72	0.69	0.69	0.70	0.70
NZD/USD	0.55-0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	0.56
USD/CNY	6.66-6.69	6.74	6.67	6.61	6.54
USD/MYR	4.06-4.11	4.12	4.07	4.02	3.97
USD/SGD	1.26-1.29	1.29	1.27	1.25	1.23
USD/THB	33.28-34.00	33.0	33.0	33.0	32.8

FX	Last close	4Q-26	1Q-27	2Q-27	3Q-27
EUR/MYR	4.5550	4.63	4.64	4.66	4.67
GBP/MYR	5.4449	5.41	5.38	5.36	5.33
AUD/MYR	2.8735	2.83	2.82	2.81	2.79
CNY/MYR	0.6133	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61
SGD/MYR	3.1901	3.20	3.21	3.22	3.23

Rates, %	Current	4Q26	1Q27	2Q27	3Q27
Fed	3.75-4.00	4.00-4.25	4.25-4.50	4.25-4.50	4.25-4.50
ECB	2.50	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
BOE	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
SNB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BOJ	1.25	1.25	1.50	1.50	1.75
RBA	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60
RBNZ	2.75	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
BNM	2.75	2.75	3.00	3.00	3.00

Source: HLBB Global Markets Research

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Date	Events	
28-Oct	AU CPI Trimmed Mean YoY (Sep)	3.60%
	NZ RBNZ Official Cash Rate	2.75%
	HK Exports YoY (Sep)	53.00%
	US MBA Mortgage Applications (23-Oct)	-5.7%
	US Advance Goods Trade Balance (Sep)	-\$132.6b
	UK UK Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey Presents Budget	
	US FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound)	4.00%
29-Oct	JN Consumer Confidence Index (Oct)	35.4
	UK Net Consumer Credit (Sep)	2.5b
	UK Mortgage Approvals (Sep)	54.9k
	EC Economic Confidence (Oct)	97.9
	US Personal Income (Sep)	0.20%
	US Personal Spending (Sep)	0.90%
	US Initial Jobless Claims (24-Oct)	194k
	US Core PCE Price Index YoY (Sep)	3.00%
	US GDP Annualized QoQ (3Q A)	2.20%
	EC ECB Deposit Facility Rate	2.50%

Source: Bloomberg

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