September Fed Decision Brings USD Outlook Into Focus Across Major FX Pairs

JustMarkets analysis highlights factors that may shape EUR/USD, GBP/USD and USD/JPY around the 15-16 September FOMC meeting.

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JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA, August 11, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Federal Open Market Committee is scheduled to meet on 15-16 September 2026, according to the Federal Reserve calendar. The meeting is due to conclude with a policy announcement and press conference and is associated with an updated Summary of Economic Projections.

At its 29 July meeting, the Committee voted 9-3 to maintain the federal funds target range at 3.5%-3.75%. The three dissenting members preferred a 25-basis-point increase, showing that a minority of policymakers favoured tighter policy.

JustMarkets analysis indicates that the foreign-exchange response to the September meeting may depend not only on the rate decision, but also on changes to inflation and employment language, the new projections and the message delivered during the press conference.

Why Federal Reserve guidance matters for USD pairs

Expectations for US interest rates influence Treasury yields, the relative return on dollar-denominated assets and broader financial conditions. As those expectations change, major USD currency pairs can reprice before the meeting, during the announcement and after the press conference.

The direction is not automatic. A message perceived as less restrictive can weigh on the dollar, while guidance indicating that rates may remain higher for longer can support it. The market response also depends on positioning, the degree of surprise and developments outside the United States.

EUR/USD: relative policy expectations remain central

EUR/USD is sensitive to the expected policy paths of both the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank. A relatively less restrictive Fed outlook could support the pair, while renewed US inflation concerns or a higher projected rate path could favour the dollar. Euro-area data and changes in ECB expectations may reinforce or offset either move.

GBP/USD: US repricing meets the UK outlook

GBP/USD also reflects UK economic data and Bank of England expectations, but broad dollar repricing can be influential over shorter periods. A more restrictive-than-expected Fed message may place pressure on the pair; a softer message may provide support, subject to UK data and global risk sentiment.

USD/JPY: rate differentials and Japanese policy

USD/JPY is closely watched for changes in the gap between US and Japanese interest-rate expectations. Higher expected US yields relative to Japan can support the pair, while a narrowing differential can weigh on it. Bank of Japan policy, Japanese bond yields, intervention risk and wider market sentiment remain additional factors.

Potential effects beyond major currency pairs

Fed-related changes in the dollar, real yields and risk appetite may also affect gold, equity indices and cryptocurrencies. These relationships are not fixed, however, and different asset classes can respond to the same policy signal in different ways.

What markets may monitor

Decision versus expectations. Whether the policy decision matches the market consensus.
Inflation and employment language. Any change in how the Committee describes its two mandate objectives.
Updated projections. Changes to economic forecasts and the projected policy-rate path.
Press-conference guidance. How policymakers frame the balance of risks and future decisions.
Cross-market confirmation. The response in Treasury yields, the dollar and other rate-sensitive assets.
Short-term price movements around policy announcements can be rapid and may reverse as participants process the statement, projections and press conference. Market reactions can also be affected by unrelated economic, political or geopolitical developments.

About JustMarkets

JustMarkets is a multi-asset broker offering CFD trading across forex, commodities, indices, shares and cryptocurrencies through web, desktop and mobile platforms. Regulatory, legal and product information is available on the company's website.

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