

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2026

Period covered: 01 – 31 August 2026



August 2026 — At a Glance

S&P 500 (AUG) +2.7% Closed 7,686 — best Aug since 2021	NASDAQ-100 (AUG) +4.2% Closed 26,371 — snapped 2-month loss	BRENT CRUDE ~\$94/bbl +10% in Aug; war re-escalated late month	GOLD (SPOT) ~\$4,440 +10% in Aug — best since January
US CPI (JUL) 3.4% YoY 2nd consecutive deceleration	US PPI (JUL) 0.0% MoM; 4.7% YoY Flat month; annual rate cooling	FED FUNDS RATE 3.50–3.75% Hold; Sep hike odds ~31–40%	BITCOIN (BTC) ~\$78,500 +24.9% — best month of 2026

Sources: Nasdaq.com, Yahoo Finance, CNBC, BLS, Federal Reserve, Fortune, GoldSilver.com, CoinGlass, Toobit — all as of 31 August 2026.

1) Macro Summary

Global context: August 2026 delivered the best month for U.S. equities since 2021, driven by a powerful combination of two consecutive soft inflation prints, a deteriorating labour market that reduced rate-hike fears, and a renewed AI earnings momentum from the second-quarter reporting season. The S&P 500 gained 2.7% — its best August since 2021 — while the Nasdaq-100 surged 4.2%, snapping two consecutive monthly losses. The Dow Jones added approximately 1%, recording its fifth straight monthly gain. The Magnificent Seven rose 4.4% for the month. With 97% of S&P 500 companies having reported by month-end, 86% beat EPS estimates and the index posted a 52% earnings growth rate for Q2 2026 — the highest since Q2 2021 — with double-digit revenue growth in energy, information technology, and communication services.

The macroeconomic turning point came in the second week of August: July CPI printed 3.4% year-over-year (a second consecutive deceleration, matching forecasts on every line), and July PPI came in flat on the month (annual rate cooling from 5.5% to 4.7%) — together cutting the probability of a September Fed rate hike from approximately 58% to just 31%. Gold surged 10% — its best monthly gain since January — as hike odds fell and ETF inflows returned. Bitcoin gained a remarkable 24.95%, its strongest calendar month of 2026 and its first positive August since 2021, with U.S. spot BTC ETFs recording approximately \$3.3bn in net inflows through the month. The VIX fell to 14.13 — its lowest level of 2026 — reflecting the market's calmer disposition relative to the spring's war-driven volatility spikes.

The month ended on a note of caution, however. On August 28, Fed Chair Warsh delivered his inaugural Jackson Hole speech — confirming inflation remained "concerning," that 54% of PCE basket items still show price increases above 3%, and that rate hikes could still be warranted. Markets sold off: the S&P 500 fell 0.25% and Bitcoin dropped ~3.3% on August 29. Then on August 31, the U.S. and Iran traded fire for the first time since late July — the U.S. struck rocket launchers on Iran's Larak Island; Iran retaliated by attacking U.S. bases in Jordan — sending Brent crude back above \$94/bbl and triggering a final-session sell-off of 0.7% on the Dow. Despite this, all three major indices closed August with meaningful gains.

Regional focus (UAE, UK, Turkey, U.S.): The Bank of England had no scheduled meeting in August; its next decision is September 17. UK CPI for July eased, broadly consistent with the global disinflationary impulse from lower energy prices. Turkey's CBRT published its Third Quarterly Inflation Report on August 13, materially revising its year-end CPI forecast and signalling that the easing cycle remains on ice pending energy price clarity; its next rate meeting is September 10. The UAE continued to benefit from elevated Brent prices averaging ~\$88–94/bbl through August, while the late-month re-escalation in the Iran war reintroduced logistical risks to GCC food and energy supply chains. Ray Dalio's prominent August 28 statement — "Sell bonds, buy gold, Bitcoin as debt crisis looms" — captured the structural anxieties underscoring the month's asset-price movements.

2) Key Economic Indicators (snapshot as of 31 August 2026)

Indicator	Value / Latest	Notes
U.S. CPI (July 2026)	3.4% (YoY); +0.1% (MoM)	Released August 12, 2026 (BLS). Second consecutive monthly deceleration; matched Dow Jones consensus on every line. Monthly CPI rose just 0.1% — the softest since June. Core CPI +2.5% YoY; unchanged from June on an annual basis. Energy contributed modestly but positively — the Iran war re-escalation in late July had not yet fully flowed into July pump prices. Gasoline: +26.7% YoY but flat MoM. Shelter: +3.3% YoY (easing trend continues). Food: +3.0% YoY. Yahoo Finance's Fed correspondent: "It's hard to see them hiking in September now that we've had two back-to-back months of cooling inflation." CME FedWatch probability of September hike fell to ~31%–40% after the CPI and PPI prints. (Source: BLS; Yahoo Finance; GoldSilver.com; Regards of Wall Street)
U.S. PPI (July 2026)	0.0% (MoM); 4.7% (YoY)	Released August 13, 2026 (BLS). Final demand PPI was unchanged month-on-month — well below the 0.2% consensus — and the 12-month rate cooled from 5.5% to 4.7%. The flat monthly reading provided a second consecutive disinflationary signal alongside the CPI print and further reduced September rate-hike pressure. Annual producer prices remain elevated in absolute terms but the direction-of-travel shift was significant for markets. Energy PPI fell month-on-month; services PPI was also subdued. (Source: BLS; GoldSilver.com; TalkMarkets/NordFX)
U.S. Labour Market (July 2026)	Payrolls –23K (vs. +83K est.); Unemployment 4.1%	Released August 1, 2026 (BLS). July non-farm payrolls declined by 23,000 — a significant miss against the +83,000 Dow Jones consensus, making it the second negative payroll month in 2026. Unemployment fell 0.1pp to 4.1% as workers left the labour force; wages rose 3.2% YoY — below CPI's 3.4%, meaning real wages fell for the second consecutive month. The "frozen" labour market (low layoffs, low hires) reached a new phase with outright job losses. Retail sales also fell 0.6% in July against a positive consensus. The combination of job losses and falling retail sales materially altered the rate-hike calculus ahead of Jackson Hole. (Source: BLS; First Financial Trust; Regards of Wall Street)
U.S. Retail Sales & Consumer Confidence	Retail sales –0.6% (Jul); Consumer sentiment 51.0 (Aug prelim.)	Released August 14 (retail sales) and August 14 (Michigan prelim. sentiment). Retail sales fell 0.6% in July against consensus of +0.1%–+0.3%. Preliminary August consumer sentiment printed 51.0 — a very weak reading historically — as higher-income households continued spending while lower-income consumers faced a squeeze from elevated energy prices and declining real wages. The "K-shaped" consumer economy (AI capex boom vs. low-income savings rate of 2.7%) was the dominant consumer narrative for August. Tyson Foods announced closure of a major beef processing facility and elimination of 723 jobs, citing a "historic cattle shortage." (Source: BLS; Regards of Wall Street; First Financial Trust; CNBC)
U.S. Q2 2026 Earnings (Final)	86% EPS beat rate; 52% earnings growth rate for S&P 500	With 97% of S&P 500 companies reporting by August month-end, the Q2 2026 earnings season was the strongest since Q2 2021. 86% beat EPS estimates (above the 74% 5-year average); 77% posted positive revenue beats. The 52% earnings growth rate for the index was driven by energy (+200%+ YoY), information technology, and communication services. All 11 sectors reported positive revenue growth. This exceptional earnings backdrop explains why equities rallied even as macro data (payrolls, GDP) softened — the "earnings resilience in the face of macro uncertainty" narrative underpinned the 2.7% S&P 500 August gain. (Source: First Financial Trust; Nasdaq.com; FactSet)

Indicator	Value / Latest	Notes
UK Economic Context	CPI broadly easing; BoE next decision Sep 17	The Bank of England had no August meeting. UK CPI for July (released mid-August) showed annual inflation broadly easing, consistent with the global disinflationary trend from lower oil prices through most of the month. However, the late-August oil spike (Brent approaching \$94/bbl following the Iran re-escalation on August 31) threatens to revive inflationary pressures in September data. The BoE's July MPR had projected CPI peaking at ~3.2% in Q4 2026; the August energy news is consistent with that forecast. Mortgage rates in the UK declined modestly during the month as markets reduced hike expectations. Governor Bailey is expected to deliver pre-MPC commentary in early September. (Source: BoE; MoneySavingExpert; Cambridge Currencies)
Turkey — CBRT 3rd Inflation Report & CPI	Year-end CPI forecast revised; Turkey CPI Jul ~28%–29% (YoY)	The CBRT published its Third Quarterly Inflation Report on August 13, revising its year-end 2026 CPI forecast upward once more, consistent with the impact of sustained energy prices. The report signalled that a return to rate cutting requires oil prices to fall sustainably and remain below \$90/bbl. Turkey's July CPI (released in early August) was broadly in the 28%–29% YoY range — the first meaningful decline since the Iran war began — reflecting the June–July oil price dip's passthrough to Turkish transport and utility prices. Bank of America noted a credible peace deal or sustained Brent decline below \$90 could enable the CBRT's TLREF to move closer to 37% ahead of the September 10 meeting. Analysts revised year-end policy rate forecasts to 30%–35%. (Source: CBRT; Türkiye Today; FocusEconomics; Bank of America)
UAE / GCC Context	Energy windfall continues; late-month re-escalation re-tightens logistics	Brent averaged approximately \$87–92/bbl through August before the month-end spike above \$94. Abu Dhabi's oil revenues and UAE sovereign wealth funds (ADIA, Mubadala) continued to benefit materially. The August 31 U.S.–Iran exchange of fire reversed the gradual Hormuz re-opening progress from June/July, re-tightening GCC food import logistics. A UAE bank made headlines for expanding regulated spot Bitcoin trading — signalling the region's growing integration with the digital asset ecosystem. Gasoline at U.S. pumps averaged \$4.085/gallon nationally in August (YoY +\$0.94) — reflecting the continued energy shock passthrough. (Source: CNBC; Fortune; First Financial Trust; CoinStats)

3) Market Performance & Dynamics (focus: August 2026)

Equities

- **S&P 500 — +2.7% in August (closed 7,686):** Best August performance since 2021. The index hit a new all-time high in early August before the Jackson Hole and Iran re-escalation sell-offs trimmed gains. Closed August 31 at 7,686.14 (down 0.33% on the day but up 2.7% for the month). Energy (+7.0%) extended its commanding YTD lead (+44.2% YTD — nearly double any other sector); financials, IT, healthcare, materials, communication services, and consumer discretionary all gained. Utilities, industrials, real estate, and consumer staples declined. The Nasdaq-100 (+4.2%) snapped two consecutive months of losses; Magnificent Seven gained +4.4%. (Source: CNBC; Nasdaq.com; First Financial Trust)
- **Dow Jones — +~1% in August (closed 53,186):** Fifth consecutive monthly gain. Closed August 31 at 53,185.90 (down 374 points on the day on Iran/oil news). Goldman Sachs and Alphabet were among the Dow's August 31 laggards. The Dow remains on track for its fourth consecutive annual gain — a streak not seen since 2014. YTD: Dow +~7%.

Fixed Income & Rates

- **Treasury yields — eased then spiked:** The soft July CPI and PPI (August 12–13) drove 10-year Treasury yields lower — the bond market interpreted two consecutive soft prints as a decisive "no hike in September" signal, pushing hike odds to 31%. Bond prices rallied mid-month. Then Warsh's Jackson Hole speech (August 28) drove yields sharply higher again — long-term bond yields surged to near two-decade highs (the 30-year approached 5.25% again) as Warsh warned inflation had not "meaningfully improved" in underlying trend terms. The month-end Iran re-escalation added another safe-haven bid to short Treasuries and long-dated yields. (Source: CNBC; GoldSilver.com; Barchart)

- **Sector leadership:** Energy was the dominant sector story: +7.0% in August, +44.2% YTD. IT, communication services, and healthcare all outperformed. Laggards: utilities (rate-sensitive, negative as hike risks fluctuated), industrials (–7.1% QTD in Q3), and real estate. Small-caps broadly tracked the S&P in August but underperformed on the final session. (Source: Nasdaq.com; CNBC)
- **Key corporate events:** August 18–20: Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Lowe's, and Deere reported earnings — reinforcing the K-shaped consumer thesis (higher income still spending, lower income under pressure). Tyson Foods announced closure of its Eagle Mountain, Utah, beef facility and 723 job cuts, citing a "historic cattle shortage" — a visible casualty of the supply-chain disruption cascade. Amazon stock fell 3%+ after a WSJ report raised concerns about its delivery network expansion plans. Citi set a \$90 price target on silver. (Source: CNBC; First Financial Trust; TalkMarkets)
- **September hike odds — whipsaw:** From ~58% at the start of August (post-July FOMC three dissenters), the CME FedWatch September hike probability fell to ~31% after CPI/PPI (August 12–13), before rising back toward ~40% by Jackson Hole (August 28). JPMorgan Wealth Management's base case: Fed on hold through end-2026, assuming no further Middle East escalation. The September 15–16 FOMC — with updated dot plot — is now the single most important macro event for global markets. (Source: CME FedWatch; Chase; GoldSilver.com)
- **Corporate bond market — AI capex issuance:** Nasdaq.com's monthly review highlighted that more than half of 2026's mega-cap technology bond financings have carried maturities of 10–50 years — positioning hyperscaler balance sheets as structural competitors to long-duration Treasuries. This "AI bond supercycle" is contributing to keeping long-term yields elevated even as short-term rate-hike expectations fluctuated. Rising fiscal deficits, record AI capital issuance, and the ongoing U.S.–Iran conflict are collectively crowding out Treasuries at the long end. (Source: Nasdaq.com August 2026 Review)
- **UK Gilts:** UK gilt yields eased modestly mid-August as soft U.S. CPI/PPI prints reduced global rate-hike expectations. The August 31 Iran re-escalation briefly reversed some of this move. The BoE September 17 meeting remains the next key event for sterling and gilts. (Source: BoE; MoneySavingExpert)

Commodities

- **Gold — +10% in August; ~\$4,440 at month-end:** Gold's best monthly performance since January 2026. The metal rallied from near \$4,000 at month-start to a 10-week high above \$4,450 mid-month before pulling back to approximately \$4,440 by month-end. Key drivers: (1) two consecutive soft U.S. inflation prints reduced rate-hike pressure; (2) SPDR Gold Trust recorded \$637mn in inflows on August 7 alone — the largest single-day ETF inflow in months; (3) Q2 central bank buying was a quarterly record of 288.9 tonnes (up 62% YoY); (4) the Warsh Jackson Hole speech briefly pressured gold toward month-end (dollar +0.41% on August 28). Goldman Sachs year-end target: \$4,900; JPMorgan Q4 target: \$4,500; Bank of America: \$4,360. (Source: GoldSilver.com; Yahoo Finance; World Gold Council; Barchart)

Energy

- **Oil — +~10% in August; volatile trajectory:** Brent opened August near \$84–85/bbl following July's ~\$85 close, rising steadily through the month: \$87.55 (Aug 10), \$92.42 (Aug 18), \$94.12 (Aug 24), before briefly retreating and then spiking again to above \$94/bbl on the August 31 Iran re-escalation. The month's narrative: Iran–Oman talks on Hormuz re-opening stalled (mid-August), Washington signalled tougher measures against Tehran, and Houthis strikes on Saudi tankers added new supply disruption risk. U.S. gasoline averaged \$4.085/gallon nationally on August 24 — \$0.94 above a year earlier. Reduced Hormuz shipments, high summer driving demand, and tight domestic inventories all supported prices. (Source: Fortune; First Financial Trust; TalkMarkets/NordFX)

Currencies & Crypto

- **U.S. Dollar (DXY):** Dollar weakened broadly mid-August as soft CPI/PPI reduced rate-hike expectations (DXY tested multi-month lows). The Jackson Hole speech (August 28) provided a hawkish boost — DXY rose 0.41% on the day, a 1-week high per Barchart. Month-end: dollar closed marginally lower for August overall despite the late-month hawkish pivot. EUR/USD range: 1.1400–1.1750 (TalkMarkets); closed near 1.1570 mid-August. (Source: Barchart; TalkMarkets/NordFX)
- **Turkish Lira (TRY):** The lira stabilised in August as July's CPI deceleration (28%–29% YoY) and softer global oil prices provided mild relief to Turkey's import bill. The late-August oil spike and the CBRT's hawkish Third Inflation Report tempered optimism about near-term rate cuts. USD/TRY broadly in the 45–47 range. Bank of America maintains TLREF at ~40% until Brent falls sustainably below \$90/bbl. (Source: Trading Economics; P.A. Turkey; Türkiye Today)

- **Silver — above \$70; Citi targets \$90:** Silver broke above \$70/oz in the final week of August (Barchart: "Silver SMASHES \$70 to \$71.31") as soft CPI/PPI and ETF inflows powered precious metals broadly higher. Citi issued a \$90 silver price target in August — reflecting the structural supply deficit (6th consecutive year), rising investment demand, and AI-driven industrial demand for solar and electronics. Silver's Gold/Silver ratio compressed from 63.9 (end-June) to approximately 62 as silver outperformed gold in the second half of August. (Source: Barchart; GoldSilver.com; Citi; TalkMarkets)
- **Copper & base metals:** COMEX copper futures reached a new record high in August, per Barchart. AI data-centre construction continued to drive structural copper demand. The global memory crunch (flagged by Apple and chipmakers in July earnings) maintained pressure on metals used in semiconductor manufacturing. The Bloomberg Commodity Index broadly positive for August, led by energy and precious metals. (Source: Barchart; CNBC)
- **Iran conflict — August 31 re-escalation:** The month ended with the U.S. confirming it struck two rocket launchers on Iran's Larak Island; Iranian state media reported Tehran retaliated with attacks on U.S. bases in Jordan. This was the first publicly acknowledged U.S. military action against Iran since late July — ending six weeks of relative quiet. The strike sent Brent above \$94/bbl and wiped the final-session equity gains. The "peace vs. war" binary that has defined markets since February 2026 re-asserted itself dramatically on the final trading day of August. (Source: CNBC; Fortune)
- **Outlook:** Rapidan Energy maintains its Q4 Brent forecast near \$100/bbl if hostilities continue. Goldman Sachs revises oil forecasts meeting-by-meeting as Hormuz transit data changes. OPEC+ will assess supply management at its September meeting. The September 15–16 FOMC, September 17 BoE meeting, and any Hormuz ceasefire developments form the three-pillar matrix for oil price trajectory in Q4. (Source: CNBC; Goldman Sachs; IEA)
- **Bitcoin — +24.95% in August; closed ~\$78,500:** Bitcoin's strongest calendar month of 2026 and its first positive August since 2021. Opened near \$63,000; climbed to a high above \$81,000 before settling near \$78,500 (CoinGlass/Toobit month-end). Spot BTC ETF inflows: \$3.3bn month-to-date through August 27 — with ETF category net assets briefly topping \$100bn on August 27. Ether ETFs: strongest week since October 2025. SEC approval of options on a Bitcoin fund, UAE bank expanding regulated BTC trading, and DTCC tokenisation rollout provided structural tailwinds. The Warsh Jackson Hole speech triggered a 3.3% single-day correction (BTC: \$77,678 on August 29), and crypto volatility repriced sharply after the \$6.4bn options expiry. BTC closed at \$78,548 per Yahoo Finance tape. (Source: CoinGlass; Toobit; Polymarket; CryptoCimes; CoinStats; Yahoo Finance)

4) Long-Term Trends Shaping the Investment Outlook

- **Warsh's Jackson Hole message — "a discipline, not a decision":** Warsh's August 28 speech at Jackson Hole was both less and more than markets expected. Less: no explicit forward guidance, no rate-hike signal, no policy framework announcement. More: the clearest statement yet that inflation remains the Fed's "predominant focus," that the six-month PCE rate of 4.1% is "more concerning" than the 12-month rate of 3.7%, and that 54% of PCE basket items still show price increases above 3%. His phrase — "I stand here today committed to a discipline, not to a decision" — defines his chairmanship philosophy: he will not pre-commit to moves, but he will not be moved by political pressure or short-term data noise. A CNBC survey of 31 economists found that 80% said Warsh should explain his views in more detail. Vanguard's Ian Kresnak captured the market's frustration: "What's driving a lot of the volatility in the rates market is uncertainty around how the Fed is going to respond to inflation." The September 15–16 FOMC — the next full meeting with a dot plot — will be Warsh's first true policy test. (Source: Federal Reserve; CNBC; CNN; GoldSilver.com)
- **The "three soft prints" turning point — but is it durable?:** July jobs (−23K), July CPI (3.4%), and July PPI (0.0% MoM) formed a trifecta of disinflationary data that fundamentally shifted August's market direction. Together they cut September hike odds from ~58% to ~31% and catalysed the strongest equity and gold rally of the summer. But the durability of the disinflation is in question: the August 31 Iran re-escalation (U.S. strikes on Larak Island; Iranian retaliation) reversed weeks of Hormuz normalisation and threatens to push August energy prices back into headline CPI for September. The August CPI print (released September 11) is now the decisive data point for the remainder of 2026. If it shows further deceleration despite the energy spike, the Fed can hold and potentially signal cuts in December. If it rebounds above 3.8%, three dissenters may gain a majority for September's hike. (Source: BLS; GoldSilver.com; CME FedWatch; CNBC)
- **Gold's structural return — central banks buying at quarterly record pace:** The World Gold Council's Q2 2026 Gold Demand Trends (published July 30) revealed that central banks purchased 288.9 tonnes in Q2 — a quarterly record — up 62% year-over-year — while the price was falling and retail ETF holders were selling. Total H1 2026 central bank purchases reached 345 tonnes. Turkey (the largest Q1 seller) slowed its unloading to just 4 tonnes in Q2; Russia reduced by 22 tonnes. This asymmetry — sovereign accumulation at lower prices while retail exits — provides the structural floor from which August's 10% rally launched. Citi's \$90 silver target and Goldman Sachs's \$4,900 gold year-end target are both premised on the view that the structural central-bank buying cycle is structurally intact. Ray Dalio publicly advised "sell bonds, buy gold, Bitcoin as debt crisis looms" at Jackson Hole. (Source: WGC; GoldSilver.com; Barchart; Bloomberg)

- **The AI bond supercycle — long-duration tech debt crowding out Treasuries:** Nasdaq.com's August review highlighted a structural shift in fixed-income markets: more than half of 2026's mega-cap tech bond issuances carry maturities of 10–50 years. Microsoft's \$255–260bn FY2027 capex guidance, Amazon's \$220bn capex, and Meta's \$125–145bn are being partially debt-funded at very long maturities. This creates a structural demand competitor to long-dated Treasuries — hyperscaler bonds offering slightly higher yields than equivalent-maturity government bonds, with corporate creditworthiness comparable to sovereigns. Combined with the U.S. federal debt surpassing \$40 trillion and ongoing deficit spending, this dynamic helps explain why long-term Treasury yields remain elevated (30-year at 5.0%+) even as inflation data softens. For investors: the pressure on long-duration assets (bonds, real estate, growth stocks) is a structural — not cyclical — dynamic that could persist for years. (Source: Nasdaq.com August 2026 Review; CNBC; Microsoft Source)
- **Bitcoin institutional adoption — a structural inflection in 2026:** August's 24.95% BTC gain was driven by genuine institutional mechanics: \$3.3bn in U.S. spot ETF inflows (strongest monthly total of 2026), SEC approval of options on a Bitcoin ETF, a UAE bank launching regulated spot BTC trading, and DTCC's tokenised securities going live. These are not speculative catalysts — they represent the progressive integration of Bitcoin into regulated financial infrastructure. BTC ETF assets under management briefly crossing \$100bn on August 27 marks a milestone comparable to gold ETFs crossing \$100bn in 2010, which preceded a multi-year institutional adoption wave. The September test: if BTC holds above \$78,000 through the September FOMC (even if the Fed hikes), it would confirm that institutional demand is now durable enough to withstand hawkish policy surprises. (Source: CryptoCimes; Toobit; CoinStats; Polymarket)
- **K-shaped economy — the structural bifurcation deepens:** August's data reinforced the most important structural theme of 2026: the U.S. economy is bifurcating between a capital-intensive AI boom (hyperscaler capex at \$745–750bn total for 2026, record earnings, mega-cap equity all-time highs) and a consumer economy under stress (low-income savings rate 2.7%, payrolls –23K, retail sales –0.6%, Tyson Foods closures). Walmart and Target's August earnings showed this divide starkly — higher-income households still spending on discretionary and premium goods; lower-income consumers reducing volumes and trading down. This K-shape is not merely distributional — it has policy implications. A Fed that hikes to control the inflation driven partly by AI capex investment would deepen the lower-income squeeze, raising political pressure on Warsh. Conversely, a Fed that holds to protect lower-income households risks embedding higher inflation expectations. (Source: First Financial Trust; Regards of Wall Street; CNBC)

Refer to JPMorgan Asset Management "Guide to the Markets" Q3 2026, BlackRock Investment Institute Mid-Year Outlook 2026, Goldman Sachs Global Economics Weekly (August 2026), World Gold Council Q2 2026 Gold Demand Trends, Vanguard Economic and Market Outlook, Fidelity Investments, Charles Schwab Market Perspective (Aug/Sep 2026), and Nasdaq.com August 2026 Review and Outlook for comprehensive thematic coverage.

5) Central-Bank Decisions/Signals (focus: US, UK, UAE, Türkiye)

Bank	Decision / Signal	Date	Notes
Federal Reserve (U.S.) — Jackson Hole keynote & July FOMC Minutes	No FOMC meeting. Warsh delivers inaugural Jackson Hole speech (Aug 28). July FOMC Minutes released (Aug 19).	19 Aug (Minutes); 28 Aug (Jackson Hole)	July FOMC Minutes (released August 19) showed policymakers debated more explicitly whether the three dissents reflected a genuine majority forming for hikes. The minutes confirmed Warsh's view that inflation remains the "predominant concern" while acknowledging that two consecutive soft prints had shifted the balance of risks. Jackson Hole speech (August 28): Warsh cited PCE 12-month rate of 3.7% and six-month rate of 4.1% as "more concerning"; noted 54% of PCE goods/services show 3%+ annual price increases (well above pre-pandemic 32%); said the data "do not tell me that underlying trends have meaningfully improved"; avoided any rate signals; declared: "I stand here today committed to a discipline, not to a decision." He also expressed confidence in AI productivity gains and consumer resilience while attributing labour market softness to "flattening labour supply." Dollar rose 0.41% on the day; stocks and Bitcoin fell. CME FedWatch September hike odds: ~40% post-speech, vs. ~31% post-CPI/PPI. Next FOMC: September 15–16 (with dot plot update). (Source: Federal Reserve; CNBC; CNN; GoldSilver.com; Barchart)

Bank	Decision / Signal	Date	Notes
Bank of England (UK)	No scheduled August MPC meeting. Next decision: September 17, 2026.	–	No August MPC meeting. The BoE's July MPR (published July 30) projected CPI peaking at ~3.2% in Q4 2026 with risks "tilted to the upside." UK inflation data for July (released mid-August) showed broad easing consistent with the global trend. However, August's late-month Iran re-escalation and oil spike above \$94/bbl threatens to revise the CPI path higher again. The BoE's 6-3 vote at the July meeting (three members voting to hike to 4.0%) means the September 17 MPC decision is finely balanced: if August UK CPI (released Sept) shows sustained disinflation, the hawkish minority may not expand further. Markets are pricing a hold at September; the first BoE rate cut is now pushed to December 2026 at the earliest by most analysts. QT continues: BoE portfolio at £492bn (target: reduce by £70bn over the year to September 2026). (Source: BoE; House of Commons Library; Cambridge Currencies; Reuters)
CBUAE (UAE)	No independent policy action. AED-USD peg maintained.	–	CBUAE maintained its Fed-aligned pause. Abu Dhabi's fiscal position benefited from Brent averaging ~\$88–94/bbl through August. The August 31 Iran re-escalation reintroduced Hormuz logistics risk, partially offsetting the economic windfall from elevated oil revenues. ADIA and Mubadala sovereign funds benefited from both the energy price tailwind and the August equity rally (S&P +2.7%, gold +10%, BTC +25%). UAE financial markets tracked global assets broadly. A UAE bank's launch of regulated spot Bitcoin trading received international attention as a signal of the region's digital asset integration ambitions. CBUAE's next policy action remains entirely contingent on the Fed's September 15–16 decision. (Source: CBUAE; CoinStats; CNBC)
CBRT (Türkiye)	No August meeting. Third Quarterly Inflation Report released August 13. Next MPC: September 10, 2026.	13 Aug 2026 (Inflation Report)	The CBRT's Third Quarterly Inflation Report (August 13) revised year-end CPI guidance upward once more, reflecting the persistence of energy-driven inflation through H1 2026. The Report confirmed that the easing cycle cannot resume until oil prices fall and remain sustainably below \$90/bbl. Key analyst views: Bank of America expects TLREF (~40%) to remain elevated, with easing possible "around the Inflation Report" only if geopolitical risks ease; JPMorgan revised its rate-cut base case to October–December 2026; FocusEconomics panellists still expect the CBRT to resume easing as soon as the September 10 meeting if data supports. Turkey's July CPI (28%–29% YoY) provided the first genuine disinflation signal since the Iran war began — but the August 31 re-escalation threatens to reverse this improvement in September data. Market year-end policy rate consensus: 30%–35%. CBRT next meeting: September 10, 2026. (Source: CBRT; FocusEconomics; Türkiye Today; Trading Economics; Bank of America)
ECB (Eurozone)	No August meeting. Next decision: September TBC.	–	The ECB had no August meeting following its July 23 hold at 2.25%. With eurozone CPI broadly easing as oil prices dipped through most of August, the probability of the ECB moving toward a second hike at the September meeting declined. Lagarde is expected to align with Warsh's cautious framing — monitoring energy prices and second-round wage effects — before committing to further action. The ECB's 0.8% GDP forecast for 2026 (barely above stagnation) creates a powerful argument against further tightening. Relevant for UAE/Turkey-based clients with EUR exposure and for UK investors monitoring EUR/GBP dynamics. (Source: ECB; Traders Agency; ADMISI)

6) High-Impact Events Scheduled – September 2026 & near-term

Date	Event	Why it matters
Sep 5, 2026	U.S. Non-Farm Payrolls (August 2026)	First payrolls report after two consecutive negative or near-zero readings. August payrolls will capture employment effects of the Iran re-escalation on energy, logistics, and construction sectors. A third consecutive weak print (below +50K) would decisively rule out a September hike and likely trigger a significant rally in bonds and risk assets. A strong print (above +150K) would revive hike fears and push CME FedWatch odds back above 50%. This is the first major data input before the September 15–16 FOMC. (Source: BLS; GoldSilver.com; CME FedWatch)
Sep 10, 2026	CBRT MPC Meeting (Türkiye)	First CBRT meeting after the Third Inflation Report and the August 31 Iran re-escalation. The outcome depends critically on Brent: if oil has retreated below \$90/bbl by September 10, a 100bp cut to 36% is possible and would be a major positive for Turkish equities and lira carry. If Brent remains above \$90/bbl (highly likely given the August 31 exchange of fire), a fourth consecutive hold is the base case. Bank of America and JPMorgan have pushed their base-case first-cut expectations to October–December 2026. (Source: CBRT; FocusEconomics; Türkiye Today; Bank of America)
Sep 11, 2026	U.S. CPI (August 2026)	The single most consequential data point for the September 15–16 FOMC. August CPI will capture the full impact of: (1) the Iran re-escalation's oil price spike back to \$94/bbl; (2) any residual passthrough from July's soft energy prices; (3) continued shelter deceleration vs. food acceleration. If headline CPI re-accelerates toward 3.8%+, the three FOMC dissenters gain a stronger case for a hike. A hold at 3.4%–3.5% (despite the oil spike) would confirm the energy shock is peaking and allow the Fed to hold comfortably. This is the number that will define Q4 2026 market direction. (Source: BLS; GoldSilver.com; CNBC; CME FedWatch)
Sep 15–16, 2026	Federal Reserve FOMC Meeting — with dot plot & SEP update	The most important FOMC meeting of the Warsh era so far. Includes Summary of Economic Projections (SEP) and the dot plot. The committee will have access to August payrolls (Sep 5), August CPI (Sep 11), and a fresh round of Fed speakers' views from the Jackson Hole aftermath. The central question: does the median dot shift from "hold" to "hike"? The three current dissenters (Hammack, Kashkari, Logan) need only two more members. September hike odds: ~40% heading into the month; the direction depends entirely on Aug 5 and Sep 11 data. A hike would be the first since July 2023 and a historic moment under Warsh's leadership. (Source: Federal Reserve; CME FedWatch; Chase; CNBC)
Sep 17, 2026	Bank of England MPC Meeting	Sixth consecutive BoE hold — or the first hike since 2023. The August 31 Iran re-escalation has complicated the BoE's path: if Brent remains above \$90 through August UK CPI (released ~mid-September), the three hawkish dissenters' case strengthens further. Governor Bailey's explicit warning that the BoE is "not edging towards a hike" could be tested if the energy situation deteriorates. Markets currently price a hold but are sensitive to a 5-4 or even 4-5 split that would suggest a hike is imminent. (Source: BoE; Reuters; Cambridge Currencies)
Sep 25, 2026	U.S. PCE Inflation (August 2026)	The Fed's preferred inflation gauge for August. Will provide a cross-check on the CPI print (Sep 11). A soft PCE following soft CPI would reinforce the hold/cut narrative. A hot PCE alongside a rebounding CPI would be the decisive argument for the next Fed hike. Core PCE has been running at 3.3% — the September print needs to show deceleration toward 3.0% for the "peak inflation" narrative to hold through year-end. (Source: BEA; GoldSilver.com; Regards of Wall Street)

Date	Event	Why it matters
Ongoing	Iran War — August 31 re-escalation and Hormuz outlook	The U.S. strike on Iran's Larak Island (August 31) and Iranian retaliation on U.S. bases in Jordan marks a fresh escalation after six weeks of relative quiet. Markets enter September with Brent above \$94/bbl, September CPI upside risk, and renewed Hormuz transit uncertainty. The single most important variable for all asset classes remains: is the ceasefire framework salvageable, or does the conflict enter a new, more intense phase? Monitor: IEA Hormuz transit data, OPEC+ September meeting outcome, Pakistan/Oman diplomatic channel, and any Trump social media statements on peace negotiations. (Source: CNBC; Fortune; NordFX)
Oct 2026	Q3 2026 Earnings Season begins	The first earnings season fully shaped by the Iran war's economic impact. Q3 encompasses July–September — the period of oil spike re-escalation (July +20%, August +10%) and the first two "soft print" months that reversed hike expectations. Companies most exposed to energy costs (airlines, transport, consumer staples, chemicals) will face the starkest earnings pressure. Energy sector earnings are again set to surge. AI cloud (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) will be the pivotal sector — if growth rates hold or accelerate, the market's structural confidence in AI monetisation will be confirmed into year-end. (Source: FactSet; Nasdaq.com; First Financial Trust)

All dates from official central bank calendars and BLS/BEA release schedules. Timing subject to change based on geopolitical developments.

7) Other Notable Trends/Highlights

- **Ray Dalio at Jackson Hole — "Sell bonds, buy gold, Bitcoin":** Bridgewater founder Ray Dalio's public statement at the Jackson Hole gathering that investors should "sell bonds, buy gold, Bitcoin as debt crisis looms" attracted significant attention. Dalio pointed to the U.S. national debt surpassing \$40 trillion, rising net interest costs approaching \$1 trillion annually, and the structural erosion of the dollar's reserve status as the basis for his thesis. His framing — that the debt dynamic is now beyond the Fed's ability to resolve with standard monetary tools — resonated particularly with gold and Bitcoin markets, contributing to both assets' strong August performance. Dalio's timing (speaking alongside Warsh's acknowledgement that inflation is "concerning") added a structural macro backdrop to the tactical rate debate. (Source: Bloomberg via Yahoo Finance; CNBC)
- **VIX at 14.13 — lowest of 2026, and what it implies:** The CBOE VIX fell to 14.13 on August 29 — its lowest level of 2026 — despite the ongoing Iran war, elevated inflation, and hawkish Fed dissents. This apparent paradox reflects markets' adaptation to the war as a "known unknown" and the two consecutive soft inflation prints temporarily reducing near-term policy uncertainty. However, historical VIX seasonality is concerning: the VIX typically rises from late August through October (median level ~19 by early October since 1990). The August 31 Iran re-escalation may have already begun this move. Investors should treat August's low-volatility window as a potential opportunity to position for asymmetric risk into the September FOMC and Q3 earnings season. (Source: Yahoo Finance; CNBC)
- **K-shaped earnings confirm corporate resilience at the top:** The Q2 2026 earnings season final tally — 86% S&P 500 EPS beat rate, 52% earnings growth rate — is a remarkable outcome given the economic backdrop of war, energy shocks, and 3.4% CPI. The resilience is concentrated at the large-cap level: mega-cap AI/cloud names (Microsoft Azure +43%, AWS +37%, Google Cloud +82%) drove the bulk of index earnings growth. Small-caps and consumer staples were materially weaker. The K-shape in earnings mirrors the K-shape in the broader economy. For portfolio positioning: the Q3 earnings season (starting October) will be the first test of whether this resilience holds as higher energy costs accumulate over a full quarter. (Source: First Financial Trust; FactSet; Nasdaq.com)
- **Tyson Foods closure — supply chain cascades from Iran war:** Tyson Foods announced the permanent closure of its Eagle Mountain, Utah, beef processing facility by October 2026, eliminating 723 jobs as part of a broader beef plant restructuring citing a "historic cattle shortage." This event is a concrete illustration of how the Iran war energy shock is cascading through the U.S. food supply chain: higher fuel costs raise ranchers' operating expenses; drought and heat amplify cattle herd contraction; processing facilities face unviable economics. Food inflation at 3.0% YoY as of July is likely to accelerate as these supply-chain impacts compound. For UAE and UK clients: global food supply-chain tightness has direct relevance to import-dependent economies, particularly given the GCC's continued reliance on food imports. (Source: CNBC; First Financial Trust)
- **Bitcoin ETF milestone — \$100bn AUM and options approval:** On August 27, U.S. spot Bitcoin ETF category net assets briefly surpassed \$100 billion — a milestone comparable to gold ETFs reaching this level in 2010 (which preceded a multi-year institutional adoption wave in gold). The SEC approval of options trading on a Bitcoin ETF expands the derivatives ecosystem available to institutional investors and will deepen liquidity for hedging strategies. A UAE bank's launch of regulated spot BTC trading signals the Gulf's growing institutional infrastructure for digital assets. Combined with Solana and XRP ETF inflows (both setting 2026 weekly records in the week of August 24–28), the structural institutionalisation of crypto is accelerating faster than most analysts predicted. (Source: CryptoCimes; Toobit; CoinStats; Polymarket)

- **Long-term bond yields — a structural challenge for all asset classes:** Nasdaq.com's August review identified a structural driver often overlooked in the rate debate: AI infrastructure bonds (10–50 year maturities from hyperscalers competing directly with Treasuries) combined with U.S. fiscal deficits exceeding \$40 trillion total debt are creating a permanent upward pressure on long-duration interest rates. The 30-year Treasury yield at or above 5% is not merely a cyclical response to inflation — it reflects a secular shift in the supply-demand balance for long-dated fixed income. For investors: this has profound implications for real estate valuations (capitalisation rates), pension fund liabilities, emerging market debt (priced off U.S. Treasuries), and growth stock multiples (discounted at higher rates). The era of structurally low long-term interest rates that characterised 2009–2021 is definitively over. (Source: Nasdaq.com August 2026 Review; CNBC; ADMISI)

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