

UPGRADE Your trade

CURRENCY PAIRS AND HOW TO TRADE

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WHAT IS TRADED AND HOW?

The long story short is money. You are purchasing foreign currency in the hopes that that country's economy strengthens in relation to the currency you used to buy it. You are effectively purchasing stock or shares in world economies.

THE MAJOR CURRENCIES

Depending on who you speak to, there are 5 or 8 major currencies. On the below table we show the 8 major currencies, with the first 5 being the big five.

SYMBOL	COUNTRY	CURRENCY	NICKNAME
USD	United States	Dollar	Buck
EUR	Euro Zone Members	Euro	Fibre
JPY	Japan	Yen	Yen
GBP	Great Britain	Pound	Cable
CHF	Switzerland	France	Swissy
CAD	Canada	Dollar	Loonie
AUD	Australia	Dollar	Aussie
NZD	New Zealand	Dollar	Kiwi

The symbol of each currency always has three letters, and generally the first two letters show which country and the last letter shows the name of the currency. So the USD is the United States Dollar. These currencies are called the majors because they are the most traded currencies.

HOW IS IT TRADED?

In Forex, a single trade is the simultaneous purchase of one currency and the selling of another. Brokers and dealers handle all the technical things related to it so you don't need to worry about that. Because you're buying AND selling currencies in one trade you are trading pairs.

If you knew that the USD was going to get a lot stronger than the JPY, you would trade the pair USD/JPY and you would **buy**. This means you are purchasing Dollars and selling Yen. If you thought the Yen would strengthen against the dollar, you would trade the same currency pair but enter a **sell**.

THESE ARE THE MAJOR CURRENCY PAIRS THAT GET TRADED

The Major currency pairs all contain the USD on one side. The majors are the most liquid and widely traded pairs.

PAIR	COUNTRIES	LINGO
EUR/USD	Euro Zone / United States	Euro Dollar
USD/JPY	United States / Japan	Dollar Yen
GBP/USD	Great Britain / United States	Pound Dollar / The Cable
USD/CHF	United States / Switzerland	Dollar Swissy
USD/CAD	United Stats / Canada	Dollar Loonie
AUD/USD	Australia / United States	Aussie Dollar
NZD/USD	New Zealand / United States	Kiwi Dollar

The Minor currency pairs consist of any currency from the 8 majors except for the USD. You also get exotic pairs, which consist of currencies from the emerging markets against the USD.

There are few Forex brokers who offer these pairs, and even if they do then the spreads are quite high making them more difficult to trade. We'll explain more on spreads later in the document if you're not sure what that is.

Here are the exotic pairs.

PAIR	COUNTRIES	LINGO
USD/HKD	United States / Hong Kong	
USD/SGD	United States / Singapore	
USD/ZAR	United States / South Africa	Dollar Rand
USD/THB	United States / Thailand	Dollar Baht
USD/MXN	United States / Mexico	Dollar Peso
USD/DKK	United States / Denmark	Dollar Krone
USD/SEK	United States / Sweden	
USD/NOK	United States / Norway	





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