



# Stock Futures Surge Pre-Powell Speech: Market Update

## Description

Stocks were up a little before Jerome Powell's Jackson Hole speech. People were wondering if the Federal Reserve Chair would talk about lowering interest rates. S&P 500 futures went up 0.5% and Europe's main stocks also rose 0.3%. The 10-year Treasury yield stayed at 3.85% while the dollar went down.

Powell's talk was the main focus for traders all week. Some thought he might say they would cut rates in September. Investors bet on small stock swings and moderate bond moves during the conference.

Two years ago, Powell gave a speech that surprised everyone and made stocks drop. Now, people are expecting a rate cut in September. They believe rates will go down by a lot by the end of the year.

The Japanese yen went up against the dollar today. The Bank of Japan Governor said they might raise rates soon but need to watch economic data first.

In corporate news, Nestle shares fell and Workday Inc. shares rose. Alibaba shareholders approved a plan to attract investment from China.

Overall, markets are waiting to see what Powell will say. The focus this week is on US new home sales and Jerome Powell's speech in Jackson Hole.

Stocks, currencies, cryptocurrencies, bonds, and commodities all saw some changes today.

©2024 Bloomberg L.P.

## Vocabulary List:

1. **Chair** /tʃɛr/ (noun): A person in charge of a meeting or organization.
2. **Interest** /'ɪn.trəst/ (noun): The cost of borrowing money or the return on investment.
3. **Yield** /ji:ld/ (noun/verb): The income return on an investment; to produce or provide.
4. **Rates** /reɪts/ (noun): The amount or value assigned to something often expressed as a ratio or percentage.
5. **Commodity** /kə'mɒdəti/ (noun): A basic good used in commerce that is interchangeable with other goods of the same type.
6. **Expecting** /ɪk'spektɪŋ/ (verb): Regard something as likely to happen.

## Comprehension Questions



### Multiple Choice

1. What was the percentage increase in S&P 500 futures before Jerome Powell's Jackson Hole speech?  
Option: 0.5%  
Option: 1.2%  
Option: 0.3%  
Option: 1.0%
2. What was the percentage rise in Europe's main stocks before Powell's speech?  
Option: 0.3%  
Option: 0.8%  
Option: 0.1%  
Option: 1.5%
3. What was the 10-year Treasury yield before Jerome Powell's speech?  
Option: 3.85%  
Option: 4.1%  
Option: 3.5%  
Option: 4.0%
4. Which currency went up against the dollar today?  
Option: Japanese yen  
Option: Euro  
Option: Pound Sterling  
Option: Canadian Dollar
5. Which company's shares fell in corporate news?  
Option: Nestle  
Option: Workday Inc.  
Option: Alibaba  
Option: None of the above
6. What are traders mainly focusing on this week with regards to Jerome Powell?  
Option: US new home sales  
Option: Cryptocurrencies  
Option: EU GDP  
Option: Oil prices



---

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. 0.5% 2. 0.3% 3. 3.85% 4. Japanese yen 5. Nestle 6. US new home sales

## Vocabulary quizzes

**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. What drives individuals to take action towards a goal or outcome?  
Option: A. Compete  
Option: B. Mastery  
Option: C. Motivation  
Option: D. Ownership
2. Which term refers to a particular form or branch of economic or commercial activity?  
Option: A. Opportunities  
Option: B. Industry  
Option: C. Fulfilling  
Option: D. Negotiation
3. What can arise in a situation with conflicting interests or emotions?  
Option: A. Opportunities  
Option: B. Tensions  
Option: C. Impact  
Option: D. Mastery
4. Which factor is considered as a potential threat impacting objectives?  
Option: A. Achievements  
Option: B. Risk  
Option: C. Mastery  
Option: D. Contract
5. What is the charge for the privilege of borrowing money typically expressed as a percentage?  
Option: A. Yield  
Option: B. Strike  
Option: C. Interest  
Option: D. Rates
6. What process involves making a system operate automatically?



- Option: A. Fulfilling
- Option: B. Automation
- Option: C. Ownership
- Option: D. Grateful

7. Which term denotes looking forward to something as likely to happen?

- Option: A. Rates
- Option: B. Expecting
- Option: C. Achievements
- Option: D. Risks

8. What refers to a connection or cooperative link between people or organizations?

- Option: A. Grateful
- Option: B. Association
- Option: C. Mindsets
- Option: D. Strike

9. Which term means to follow or chase after a goal or objective?

- Option: A. Pursue
- Option: B. Yield
- Option: C. Indicators
- Option: D. Ownership

10. What object is commonly used for sitting that often accompanies a table?

- Option: A. Fulfilling
- Option: B. Interest
- Option: C. Chair
- Option: D. Mastery

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. In business successful \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to mutually beneficial agreements.

12. The exchange of goods and services between businesses or individuals is known as

\_\_\_\_\_.

13. Protecting a nation's sovereignty and citizens from external threats is a key aspect of

\_\_\_\_\_.



14. The return on an investment is often expressed as a percentage known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The legal right to possess use and dispose of something is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Workers may collectively stop working as a form of protest known as a \_\_\_\_\_.
17. The effect or influence that one thing has on another is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Favorable circumstances or chances for progress and advancement are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Recognition or accomplishment resulting from effort skill or perseverance are \_\_\_\_\_.
20. The established set of attitudes held by someone is referred to as their \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

|                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21. Evaluating similarities and differences between two or more things is a form of .                 |
| 22. The state of being skilled or knowledgeable in a particular subject or activity is called .       |
| 23. Engaging in activities that bring a sense of satisfaction and contentment can be described as .   |
| 24. Signals or signs that provide information about a situation or state of affairs are known as .    |
| 25. Feeling or showing an appreciation for kindness or benefits received is to be .                   |
| 26. Obstacles or difficulties that test one's abilities or strengths are considered as to overcome.   |
| 27. Potential threats or negative outcomes that may arise from a decision or action are regarded as . |
| 28. The price or cost of using money often expressed as a percentage is known as .                    |
| 29. A raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold is known as a .        |
| 30. Having the legal right to possess control and make decisions about something signifies .          |

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. C. Motivation 2. B. Industry 3. B. Tensions 4. B. Risk 5. C. Interest 6. B. Automation 7. B. Expecting



---

8. B. Association 9. A. Pursue 10. C. Chair

**Gap-Fill:** 11. negotiation 12. commerce 13. national security 14. yield 15. ownership 16. strike 17. impact  
18. opportunities 19. achievements 20. mindsets

**Matching sentence:** 1. comparison 2. mastery 3. fulfilling 4. indicators 5. grateful 6. challenges 7. risks 8.  
rates 9. commodity 10. ownership

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL2

### Date Created

2024/08/23

### Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM