Stock Market Update: Highlights from 23 July 2026

Description

U.S. stock markets declined on Thursday as oil prices surged due to rising tensions in the Middle East. This situation concerns investors, especially as two of the largest companies reported their quarterly results.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped by 506.93 points, which is a decrease of 0.97%, closing at 51,711.65. The S&P 500 also fell by 1.21%, ending at 7,408.30, while the Nasdaq Composite saw a larger decrease of 2.15%, closing at 25,137.69. This decline was influenced by a 7% drop in Alphabet's shares and a 14% fall in Tesla's stock following disappointing earnings reports.

Oil prices rose sharply after Yemen's Houthi militants claimed responsibility for attacks on Saudi Arabian tankers in the Red Sea. This news heightened fears of a broader conflict in the region. Additionally, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened military action against Iran if it targets shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

Brent crude oil futures increased by 7% to $100.69, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude rose by 6% to $92.19 per barrel, both hitting their highest prices in months.

Treasury yields also increased, with the 10-year yield surpassing 4.7%, the highest level since January 2025. Currently, there is a strong expectation that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates in September.

Going forward, market watchers will closely observe the ongoing conflict in the Middle East as it unfolds.

Vocabulary List:

1. **surged** //sɝdʒd// (verb): increased very quickly and by a large amount
2. **tensions** //ˈtɛnʃənz// (noun): nervous or angry feelings between people or countries
3. **quarterly** //ˈkwɔrtərli// (adjective): happening once every three months in business
4. **militants** //ˈmɪlɪtənts// (noun): people who use force for political reasons
5. **futures** //ˈfjuːtʃərz// (noun): financial contracts to buy something later
6. **yields** //jildz// (noun): the return or profit from an investment

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What caused the decline in U.S. stock markets on Thursday?

   Option: Surge in oil prices
   Option: Rise in unemployment rates
   Option: Increase in tech stocks
   Option: Decrease in consumer spending

2. By how many points did the Dow Jones Industrial Average drop?

   Option: 406.93
   Option: 506.93
   Option: 306.93
   Option: 606.93

3. What percentage did the S&P 500 fall by?

   Option: 0.97%
   Option: 1.21%
   Option: 2.15%
   Option: 3.00%

4. Which company experienced a 14% fall in stock following disappointing earnings reports?

   Option: Alphabet
   Option: Tesla
   Option: Amazon
   Option: Microsoft

5. What was the price of Brent crude oil futures after the increase?

   Option: $92.19
   Option: $100.69
   Option: $85.50
   Option: $110.00

6. What is the expectation regarding interest rates in September?

   Option: They will be lowered
   Option: They will remain the same
   Option: They will be raised
   Option: They will be eliminated

True-False

7. The Nasdaq Composite saw a smaller decrease than the Dow Jones.

8. Oil prices rose due to attacks on Saudi tankers by Yemen's Houthi militants.

9. The Dow Jones closed at 51,711.65 on Thursday.

10. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude rose by 7%.

11. President Donald Trump threatened military action against Iran.

12. Treasury yields decreased, with the 10-year yield below 4.7%.

Gap-Fill

13. The Dow Jones dropped by ________________________ points.

14. The S&P 500 ended at ________________________ after falling by 1.21%.

15. Brent crude oil futures increased by ________________________ to $100.69.

16. The 10-year Treasury yield surpassed ________________________%, the highest level since January 2025.

17. Market watchers will observe the ongoing conflict in the ________________________ as it unfolds.

18. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude rose by ________________________ to $92.19 per barrel.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Surge in oil prices 2. 506.93 3. 1.21% 4. Tesla 5. $100.69 6. They will be raised
True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False
Gap-Fill: 13. 506.93 14. 7,408.30 15. 7% 16. 4.7 17. Middle East 18. 6%

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What happened to the stock prices last quarter?

Option: They plummeted
Option: They surged
Option: They remained stable
Option: They fluctuated

2. What type of government action can affect business operations?

Option: Regulation
Option: Controversy
Option: Production
Option: Competition

3. Which economic activity involves sending goods to another country?

Option: Imports
Option: Exports
Option: Domestic sales
Option: Stockpiling

4. Who are groups that may use violence to achieve political goals?

Option: Activists
Option: Negotiators
Option: Militants
Option: Diplomats

5. What term describes prices that have been increased beyond normal levels?

Option: Deflated
Option: Stabilized
Option: Inflated
Option: Reduced

6. What is a key factor in determining if consumers can purchase a product?

Option: Affordability
Option: Scarcity
Option: Luxury
Option: Desirability

7. What term refers to money given to support charities?

Option: Investments
Option: Loans
Option: Donations
Option: Purchases

8. What is the act of monitoring people or places called?

Option: Surveillance

Option: Oversight
Option: Inspection
Option: Heed

9. What are taxes imposed on imported goods known as?

Option: Subsidies
Option: Tariffs
Option: Sales tax
Option: Fees

10. What type of market is characterized by many sellers and buyers?

Option: Monopolistic
Option: Oligopolistic
Option: Competitive
Option: Static

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

11. The company's annual turnover reached a new record of ________________________.

12. The charity was established as a nonprofit foundation in ________________________.

13. International relations have seen increasing tensions due to ________________________.

14. The dealership announced several attractive deals for customers during ________________________.

15. The project has come under intense scrutiny from the public since ________________________.

16. The consumers felt they were misled by the advertisements that promised ________________________.

17. The city is known for its production of high-quality textiles, especially ________________________.

18. In response to security concerns, the city implemented a new surveillance system in

________________________.

19. The company's focus on affordability has made its products popular among ________________________.

20. The politician faced serious allegations regarding his ________________________.

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

21. The increased demand for products led to a higher turnover rate in sales.
22. The militants were reported to have increased their activities in the region.
23. Heightened tensions between the two countries have affected international trade.
24. The organization received significant donations to support its charitable work.
25. Investors saw their stocks rise significantly in response to the market rally.
26. The inflated prices of goods have caused concern among consumers.
27. New surveillance measures were introduced to enhance public safety.
28. The new regulation aims to improve environmental standards in manufacturing.
29. The focus on affordability has increased the customer base significantly.
30. The government's tariffs have both supporters and critics among economists.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. They surged 2. Regulation 3. Exports 4. Militants 5. Inflated 6. Affordability 7. Donations 8. Surveillance 9. Tariffs 10. Competitive
Gap-Fill: 11. five billion dollars 12. 2010 13. trade disputes 14. the holiday season 15. the recent findings in the report 16. miraculous results 17. cotton and silk 18. public spaces 19. middle-class families 20. use of campaign funds
Matching sentence: 1. turnover 2. militants 3. tensions 4. donations 5. stocks 6. inflated 7. surveillance 8. regulation 9. affordability 10. tariffs

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4

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1. 2026
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
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5. Level 4

6. reading comprehension
7. stock market

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