



Stock Market Updates: Key Developments Today

Description

Stocks fell sharply on Friday as the conflict between the U.S., Israel, and Iran escalated, and oil prices surged. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped by 443.96 points, or 0.96%, closing at 45,577.47. The S&P 500 decreased by 1.51%, settling at 6,506.48, while the Nasdaq Composite fell by 2.01% to end at 21,647.61. The Russell 2000 index also declined more than 2%, entering correction territory, which indicates a drop of 10% from its most recent peak. During the day, both the Dow and Nasdaq entered this correction range but closed just above it.

The decline followed a night of strikes exchanged between Iran and Israel, along with Iranian attacks on energy sites in the Persian Gulf. Reports indicated that the Pentagon is dispatching thousands of additional Marines to the Middle East, with speculation of “heavy preparations” to deploy ground troops to Iran.

Selling intensified in the afternoon after it was revealed that Iraq had declared force majeure on foreign-operated oilfields, leading to a rise in oil prices, with Brent crude reaching over \$113 per barrel and WTI trading above \$98.

Market analysts suggest that if troop deployments increase, the situation could lead to higher oil and gas prices in the coming weeks. Ross Mayfield, an investment strategist, noted that equity markets have not yet reacted fully to these events, suggesting there may be further declines ahead.

This week marks the fourth consecutive week of losses for major stock indices. The S&P 500 has fared slightly better than others, down 7% from its recent high. The day’s selling was widespread, particularly impacting technology stocks like Nvidia and Tesla, which each lost approximately 3%.

Vocabulary List:

1. **escalated** //ˈɛskəˌleɪtɪd// (verb): became more serious or more intense quickly
2. **surged** //sɜːdʒd// (verb): rose very quickly and by a large amount
3. **correction** //kəˈrɛkʃən// (noun): a fall in prices after a recent high
4. **dispatching** //dɪˈspætʃɪŋ// (verb): sending people or things to a place
5. **speculation** //ˌspɛkjəˈleɪʃən// (noun): ideas about what might happen, not certain
6. **indices** //ˈɪndɪsiːz// (noun): numbers that show how markets are doing

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What was the closing value of the Dow Jones Industrial Average on Friday?
Option: 45,577.47
Option: 50,000.00
Option: 40,000.00
Option: 46,000.00

2. Which index decreased by 1.51%?
Option: Dow Jones
Option: S&P 500
Option: Nasdaq Composite
Option: Russell 2000

3. What significant event escalated the conflict mentioned in the report?
Option: Peace Talks
Option: Stock Market Crash
Option: Strikes between Iran and Israel
Option: Trade Agreements

4. What was the price of Brent crude oil reported in the article?
Option: \$100 per barrel
Option: \$110 per barrel
Option: \$113 per barrel
Option: \$98 per barrel

5. How much did the Russell 2000 index decline?
Option: 2%
Option: 3%
Option: 1.5%
Option: 5%

6. According to market analysts, what could troop deployments lead to?
Option: Increased stock prices
Option: Lower oil prices
Option: Higher oil and gas prices
Option: Stability in the markets



True-False

7. The Nasdaq Composite fell by 2.01% to end at 21,647.61.
8. Oil prices dropped below \$98 after Iraq declared force majeure.
9. This week marks the fourth consecutive week of gains for major stock indices.
10. Technology stocks like Nvidia and Tesla each lost approximately 3%.
11. The Pentagon is sending additional Marines to the Pacific region.
12. The S&P 500 has decreased 7% from its recent high.

Gap-Fill

13. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped by 443.96 points, or _____ .
14. The S&P 500 settled at _____ after a decrease.
15. The Russell 2000 index entered _____ territory, indicating significant drop.
16. Brent crude oil reached over \$ _____ per barrel.
17. Iraq declared _____ on foreign-operated oilfields.
18. Selling intensified after news of strikes and troop _____ to the Middle East.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 45,577.47 2. S&P 500 3. Strikes between Iran and Israel 4. \$113 per barrel 5. more than 2% 6. Higher oil and gas prices

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 0.96% 14. 6,506.48 15. correction 16. 113 17. force majeure 18. deployments

Vocabulary quizzes



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

1. What term describes the process of increasing rapidly?
Option: Decreasing
Option: Escalating
Option: Stabilizing
Option: Integrating
2. Which word means to destroy completely?
Option: Create
Option: Obliterate
Option: Preserve
Option: Build
3. What is the process of removing salt from seawater called?
Option: Desalination
Option: Contamination
Option: Purification
Option: Filtration
4. Which word means valid or lawful?
Option: Illegitimate
Option: Legitimate
Option: Fraudulent
Option: Fake
5. What term describes a sudden decrease or drop?
Option: Surged
Option: Climbed
Option: Plunged
Option: Stabilized
6. What word describes a sudden powerful forward or upward movement?
Option: Dropped
Option: Surged
Option: Declined
Option: Fell
7. What term is used to describe a significant decline in economic activity?
Option: Recession
Option: Prosperity
Option: Stagnation



Option: Development

8. Which term refers to the value of shares issued by a company?

Option: Debt

Option: Asset

Option: Equity

Option: Liability

9. What term refers to arenas where buyers and sellers meet?

Option: Exchanges

Option: Markets

Option: Stores

Option: Auctions

10. What term refers to the forming of a theory or conjecture without firm evidence?

Option: Conclusion

Option: Assumption

Option: Speculation

Option: Fact

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

11. The city's _____ was improved with new roads and bridges.

12. The initiative focuses on environmental _____ for future generations.

13. The new product is an _____ solution to an old problem.

14. They invested in _____ agriculture to restore the soil.

15. The program offers _____ learning options for students.

16. The factory increased its _____ to meet the rising demand.

17. The paper was made from _____ materials to reduce waste.

18. The economic _____ affected many businesses worldwide.

19. The company announced _____ due to financial struggles.

20. The stock market _____ have shown a downward trend this quarter.



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

21. The escalating costs of living are causing many to struggle financially.
22. The powerful storm was strong enough to obliterate entire communities.
23. Desalination plants are crucial for providing fresh water in arid regions.
24. He provided legitimate proof of his identity when asked by the authorities.
25. The stock market plunged following the unexpected news.
26. Demand for electric vehicles has surged in recent years.
27. The country entered a recession after several quarters of negative growth.
28. Equity investments can contribute to your portfolio's growth over time.
29. There was much speculation about the company's future after the CEO resigned.
30. Sustainability practices are essential for protecting the environment.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Escalating 2. Obliterate 3. Desalination 4. Legitimate 5. Plunged 6. Surged 7. Recession 8. Equity 9. Markets 10. Speculation

Gap-Fill: 11. infrastructure 12. sustainability 13. innovative 14. regenerative 15. asynchronous 16. output 17. recycled 18. downturn 19. layoffs 20. indices

Matching sentence: 1. escalating 2. obliterate 3. desalination 4. legitimate 5. plunged 6. surged 7. recession 8. equity 9. speculation 10. sustainability

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL5

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