



UK Stock Market Update: 13 May 2026

Description

The S&P 500 index reached a record high on Wednesday, driven by strong interest in technology stocks, despite a concerning inflation report. The index rose by 0.58% to 7,444.25, while the Nasdaq increased by 1.2%, closing at 26,402.34. However, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 67.36 points, finishing at 49,693.20.

Technology shares outperformed other sectors as concerns over rising inflation, mainly due to escalating energy prices from the Iran war, impacted areas like retail and banking. Nvidia shares rose over 2%, and Micron Technology saw gains of more than 4%. The VanEck Semiconductor ETF also climbed by 2%.

In contrast, around two-thirds of the S&P 500 saw declines during the trading session, which included companies like Home Depot and JPMorgan, reflecting their vulnerability to broader economic trends. Ross Mayfield, a Baird investment strategist, noted that investors seem confident in the structural demand for chip stocks, believing that the artificial intelligence boom will continue despite global tensions.

The surge in technology stocks followed a visit by Nvidia's CEO, Jensen Huang, with President Donald Trump to China, hinting at potential opportunities for Nvidia to sell its AI chips there.

Recent inflation data, however, might cause concern among investors. The producer price index climbed by 1.4% in April, the largest monthly rise since March 2022, surpassing economists' expectations. With these developments, the future direction of the market remains uncertain.

Vocabulary List:

1. **inflation** //ɪnˈfleɪʃən// (noun): when prices rise and money buys less
2. **outperformed** //,aʊtpərˈfɔːrmd// (verb): did better than others in the same area
3. **escalating** //ˈɛskəˌleɪtɪŋ// (adjective): increasing quickly or becoming more serious
4. **vulnerability** //ˌvʌlnərəˈbɪləti// (noun): being easily harmed or made weaker
5. **structural** //ˈstrʌktʃərəl// (adjective): connected to deep, long-term parts of something
6. **semiconductor** //ˌsemɪkənˈdʌktər// (noun): material or small part used in electronic chips

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What record high did the S&P 500 index reach on Wednesday?
Option: 7,444.25
Option: 7,000.00
Option: 7,500.00
Option: 7,200.50
2. Which index increased by 1.2%?
Option: S&P 500
Option: Dow Jones Industrial Average
Option: Nasdaq
Option: VanEck Semiconductor ETF
3. What factor impacted the retail and banking sectors due to rising inflation?
Option: Iran war
Option: COVID-19 pandemic
Option: Trade tensions with China
Option: Stock market crash
4. How much did Nvidia shares rise?
Option: 1%
Option: 2%
Option: 3%
Option: 4%
5. Who is the Baird investment strategist mentioned?
Option: Ross Mayfield
Option: Adam Smith
Option: John Doe
Option: Michael Johnson
6. Which company saw gains of more than 4%?
Option: Home Depot
Option: JPMorgan
Option: Micron Technology
Option: Tesla



True-False

7. The S&P 500 index rose by more than 1%.
8. The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished at 49,693.20.
9. Investors are confident about the demand for chip stocks due to the artificial intelligence boom.
10. Jensen Huang is the CEO of Micron Technology.
11. The producer price index rose by 1.4% in April, which was a significant monthly rise.
12. The VanEck Semiconductor ETF fell by 2% during the trading session.

Gap-Fill

13. The S&P 500 index rose by _____ to 7,444.25.
14. Around two-thirds of the S&P 500 saw _____ during the trading session.
15. The Nasdaq closed at _____ after an increase of 1.2%.
16. The producer price index climbed by _____ in April.
17. Rising inflation mainly due to _____ prices affected some market sectors.
18. The artificial intelligence boom is believed to _____ despite global tensions.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 7,444.25 2. Nasdaq 3. Iran war 4. 2% 5. Ross Mayfield 6. Micron Technology

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 0.58% 14. declines 15. 26,402.34 16. 1.4% 17. energy 18. continue

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4

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