



US Navy escorts ships through Strait of Hormuz as Iran ceasefire holds on a knife edge

The US Navy successfully guided two American merchant ships through the Strait of Hormuz on Monday for the first time since the waterway was blocked in late February.

President Trump paused the escort mission on Tuesday after mediators reported meaningful progress toward a peace deal with Iran.

CONCLUSION

The world is watching the Strait of Hormuz closely — a diplomatic breakthrough could bring significant relief to global energy markets.

**MARKET INSIGHT**

US stocks hold firm as gold and silver surge on safe-haven demand

- US equity markets showed impressive resilience today, with the Dow Jones climbing to 49,298 points (+0.53%), the S&P 500 rising to 7,259 (+0.35%), and the Nasdaq 100 gaining to 28,015 (+0.43%).
- In Europe, Germany's DAX 40 was the standout performer, surging 1.61% to 24,401, reflecting strong underlying confidence in the Eurozone economy.
- The UK's FTSE 100 dipped 1.41% to 10,219, weighed down by its heavy exposure to energy and commodity stocks that are caught in the Hormuz disruption.
- Gold jumped 2.19% to \$4,663 per ounce and silver climbed 3.93% to \$76.10, both benefiting from investors seeking safe places to store wealth during uncertain times.

CONCLUSION

Despite the global tension, stock markets are holding up well, supported by strong tech company performance and investor confidence in long-term economic growth.

Key numbers shaping the global economy this morning

GOLD PRICE

\$4,663 / oz

Up 2.19% today — investors seeking safety amid Middle East tensions

BRENT CRUDE OIL

\$108.12 / barrel

Still elevated from Hormuz disruption but well below March peak of \$126

BITCOIN

\$81,292

Holding above \$80K but sentiment remains cautious in risk-off environment

COPPER

\$6.09 / lb

Up 1.71% today — signals continued optimism about global industrial demand

CONCLUSION: The markets are sending mixed signals — precious metals and copper point to both fear and growth, while oil remains the key variable to watch.

Oil, gold, and crypto — where the key commodities and digital assets stand today

1

Gold at \$4,663

Surging 2.19% as safe-haven demand intensifies — investors historically move into gold when geopolitical risks rise

2

Silver at \$76.10

Climbing 3.93%, benefiting from both safe-haven buying and its use in industrial manufacturing

3

Brent Crude at \$108.12

Modestly higher by 0.36% — the Strait of Hormuz dispute continues to keep oil prices elevated versus pre-crisis levels

4

WTI Crude at \$100.44

Dipping 2.06% — US domestic oil supply buffers are helping offset some of the global energy shock

5

Bitcoin at \$81,292

A slight gain of 0.51% but crypto overall is feeling the pressure of a risk-off global mood

6

Ethereum at \$2,364

Slipping 0.63% — digital assets tend to pull back when global investors favour safety over speculation

CONCLUSION: Precious metals are the clear winners today, oil remains elevated but off its peak, and crypto is feeling the weight of global uncertainty.

Where Markets Stand Right Now

Gold and Silver



Strait of Hormuz geopolitical tension driving safe-haven demand

US Equities



Strong tech earnings and economic resilience balancing out geopolitical risk

European Equities



Germany's DAX rising strongly while the UK's FTSE 100 drops on energy exposure

Oil and Energy



Hormuz disruption keeping prices elevated; Operation Project Freedom pause introduces uncertainty

Forex (US Dollar)



Dollar benefiting from safe-haven flows as global investors seek stability

Crypto



Risk-off environment weighing on speculative assets as investors favour gold and cash

CONCLUSION: The world is navigating a period of elevated tension, but resilient stock markets and active diplomacy suggest the path forward, while uncertain, is not without hope.