

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.
- The Strait of Hormuz is one of the most important shipping routes in the world, carrying roughly a quarter of all seaborne oil — its disruption has driven energy costs sharply higher for millions of people.
- With negotiations now underway, there is cautious optimism that a permanent agreement could ease the energy crisis that has been building since late February.

KEY DRIVER

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WHAT TO WATCH

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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.

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

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

Where Markets Stand Right Now

ASSET CLASS	SENTIMENT	KEY DRIVER	DIRECTION
Gold and Silver	● BULLISH	Strait of Hormuz geopolitical tension driving safe-haven demand	▲
US Equities	● NEUTRAL	Strong tech earnings and economic resilience balancing out geopolitical risk	▲
European Equities	MIXED	Germany's DAX rising strongly while the UK's FTSE 100 drops on energy exposure	↕
Oil and Energy	● VOLATILE	Hormuz disruption keeping prices elevated; Operation Project Freedom pause introduces uncertainty	↕
Forex (US Dollar)	● BULLISH	Dollar benefiting from safe-haven flows as global investors seek stability	▲
Crypto	● BEARISH	Risk-off environment weighing on speculative assets as investors favour gold and cash	▼