

US Rejects Iran Peace Offer as Stock Markets Hit New All-Time Highs

- The United States and Iran are still trying to reach a peace agreement that could reopen a key oil shipping route in the Middle East called the Strait of Hormuz.
- Iran sent a new peace proposal this morning, but President Trump rejected it, saying talks must continue to find common ground.
- A major summit between the US and China is also coming up on May 14-15 in Beijing, which could help ease trade and energy tensions around the world.
- Global stock markets are staying strong, with investors hopeful that a deal will eventually be reached and that the world economy will keep growing.

KEY DRIVER

The United States and Iran are still trying to reach a peace agreement that could reopen a key oil shipping route in the Middle East called the Strait of Hormuz.

WHAT TO WATCH

Iran sent a new peace proposal this morning, but President Trump rejected it, saying talks must continue to find common ground.

MARKET INSIGHT

US Stock Markets Climb to Fresh Record Highs Driven by AI Enthusiasm

- The S&P 500 rose to a new all-time high of 7,398.90 points this morning, gaining 0.49% — its sixth consecutive week of gains.
- The Nasdaq 100, which is packed with technology companies, surged 1.62% to 29,234.99, driven by strong excitement around artificial intelligence.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average edged up slightly to 49,609.20, while European markets were more mixed — Germany's DAX gained 0.12% and the UK's FTSE 100 dipped 0.43%.
- Investors are focused on AI growth stories and remain confident that corporate earnings will stay strong through the rest of 2026.

Key Economic Indicators Show a Mixed But Resilient Global Picture

US JOBS (APRIL)

+115,000

April employment beat forecasts, with strong private sector and manufacturing gains

FED RATE

3.5–3.75%

Federal Reserve holding rates steady; inflation rising due to energy costs

ECB RATE

2.0%

European Central Bank on hold; June hike possible but uncertain

BOE RATE

3.75%

Bank of England warns of unavoidable inflation spike tied to Middle East energy disruption

Commodities Whipsaw as Oil Bounces and Precious Metals Stay Strong

1

Gold

Eased slightly to \$4,682.94 per ounce after earlier safe-haven demand; remains near historic highs with a bullish long-term outlook

2

Silver

Outperformed with a 1.45% gain to \$81.08, boosted by both industrial demand and its role as a store of value

3

WTI Crude Oil

Briefly dipped below \$100/barrel on peace deal hopes, then bounced back to \$99.98 — a key psychological level to watch

4

Brent Crude

Recovered to \$105.56 per barrel after initial dip; the Strait of Hormuz blockade continues to underpin elevated prices

Where Markets Stand Right Now

ASSET CLASS	SENTIMENT	KEY DRIVER	DIRECTION
US Equities	● BULLISH	AI demand and geopolitical de-escalation hopes pushing S&P 500 to record highs	▲
European Equities	● NEUTRAL	Global optimism helping but UK and Europe face local energy inflation headwinds	↕
Oil and Energy	● VOLATILE	Strait of Hormuz blockade ongoing; every peace talk headline moves prices sharply	↕
Gold and Silver	● BULLISH	Safe-haven demand and inflation hedging keeping precious metals near all-time highs	▲
Forex (USD)	● NEUTRAL	Dollar holding steady as markets await clearer direction on Fed policy and geopolitics	↔
Crypto	● NEUTRAL	Bitcoin consolidating around \$80,000; Ethereum steady at \$2,334 — markets in a wait-and-see mode	↔