

# Oil Crisis Eases as Markets Rebound Ahead of Critical April 22 Ceasefire Deadline

Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz last week, briefly pushing oil prices sharply higher,

- but markets are calming down this morning as diplomats work toward a ceasefire agreement due April 22.

The United States and Iran agreed to a two-week pause in hostilities brokered by

- Pakistan, and both sides are still talking, which has given investors some reassurance.

Stock markets in Europe and the US are rising today, a sign that many investors

- believe a peaceful resolution is possible before the deadline.

The situation remains fluid, but the tone this morning is cautiously hopeful rather than

- panicked.

# Global Stock Markets Bounce Back as Investors Bet on Ceasefire Progress

- The S&P 500 is up 0.73% this morning, trading at 7,126 points, recovering from yesterday's dip caused by Middle East tension headlines.
- Europe's DAX 40 is the standout performer, surging 2.28% to 24,702 points as European investors respond positively to signs of de-escalation.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average is up 1.35% at 49,447 points, driven by gains in industrial and financial stocks.
- The Nasdaq 100 is also higher, up 0.46% at 26,672 points, as technology stocks stabilise ahead of a busy corporate earnings week.

# Key Economic Numbers Shaping the Week Ahead

## BRENT CRUDE OIL

**\$95.32/barrel**  
**(-2.24%)**

Oil prices are pulling back from last week's spike, offering some relief on global inflation fears

## GOLD

**\$4,809.40/troy**  
**OZ (+0.53%)**

Gold is nudging higher as investors hold some safe-haven protection amid ongoing uncertainty

## EUR/USD

**1.17495**

The euro is holding steady against the US dollar, which has gained ground as a safe-haven currency this week

## FEDERAL RESERVE RATE

**3.50–3.75%**

The US central bank meets April 28-29 and is expected to hold rates unchanged; oil prices will influence its next steps

# Commodities and Crypto: Where Prices Stand This Morning

1

## GOLD AT \$4,809

The precious metal is slightly higher today, benefiting from a mix of safe-haven demand and a resilient inflation environment, despite earlier pressure from a stronger US dollar.

2

## SILVER AT \$79.94

Silver is up 0.83%, tracking gold higher and also supported by improving industrial demand expectations as markets stabilise.

3

## BRENT CRUDE AT \$95.32

Oil is down 2.24% from yesterday's spike above \$97, as ceasefire diplomacy reduces immediate fears of a prolonged Hormuz blockage.

4

## BITCOIN AT \$74,537

Crypto is mildly lower, down 1.38%, largely sidelined from today's geopolitical focus; no major crypto-specific news is driving the move.

# Where Markets Stand Right Now

MARKET	SENTIMENT	KEY DRIVER	DIRECTION
Oil and Energy	VOLATILE	Strait of Hormuz closure creating historic supply disruption; prices easing but risk remains high	↕
US Equities	VOLATILE	Geopolitical risk offset by rebound optimism; earnings season adds further uncertainty	↕
European Equities	BULLISH	DAX and FTSE both recovering strongly; ceasefire hopes outweighing energy cost concerns	▲
US Dollar (Forex)	BULLISH	Safe-haven demand and oil-driven inflation fears are pushing the dollar higher	▲
Gold and Precious Metals	NEUTRAL	Mixed signals between USD strength and geopolitical safe-haven demand; modest gains	↔
Crypto	NEUTRAL	Decoupled from today's geopolitical drama; Bitcoin and Ethereum both slightly lower with no major catalyst	▼