

US-Iran Ceasefire Holds as Diplomats Push for a Lasting Peace Deal

- The US and Iran agreed to an indefinite ceasefire on April 24, giving both sides more time to reach a permanent deal after weeks of conflict.
- The truce was originally brokered by Pakistan in early April and has now been extended as talks continue on key issues including the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's nuclear program.
- Global markets responded positively to the news, with US stocks climbing to record highs and investor confidence improving significantly.
- Peace negotiations are ongoing, with diplomats from both sides working through Pakistan and Oman to find common ground on a lasting agreement.

US Stocks Hit Record Highs Led by Tech and AI Enthusiasm

- The S&P 500 reached a new all-time record high at 7,165 points this morning, gaining 0.40% as investors welcomed the improved geopolitical outlook.
- The Nasdaq 100, home to the world's biggest technology companies, outperformed strongly with a 0.82% rise to 27,303 points, fuelled by renewed excitement around artificial intelligence.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average dipped slightly to 49,230, as some investors shifted money from traditional industries into higher-growth technology stocks.
- European markets are more cautious today, with Germany's DAX down 0.37% and the UK's FTSE 100 down 0.75%, reflecting regional energy cost concerns.

Key Economic Numbers Every Investor Should Know Today

GOLD

\$4,737 per oz
(+0.45%)

Investors continue to hold gold as a safety net even as geopolitical fears ease slightly

BITCOIN

\$78,861
(+1.44%)

Crypto is rising alongside stocks as investor confidence improves globally

ETHEREUM

\$2,380
(+2.69%)

Ethereum is outperforming Bitcoin today, signalling strong appetite for riskier digital assets

FEAR AND GREED INDEX

66 — Greed

Investor sentiment is firmly in positive territory, though not at extreme levels

Oil, Metals, and Crypto – Where Prices Stand This Morning



BRENT CRUDE AT \$100.91

Oil held near the key \$100 mark as the ceasefire calmed fears of further Middle East supply cuts, though the Strait of Hormuz remains restricted



WTI CRUDE AT \$95.79

US oil prices edged slightly higher, supported by ongoing supply tightness even as diplomatic progress continues



SILVER AT \$76.28 (+1.01%)

Silver outperformed gold today, benefiting from both safe-haven demand and hopes for increased industrial activity as tensions ease



COPPER AT \$6.12 (+0.50%)

Copper rose on optimism that reduced geopolitical stress could support stronger global manufacturing and infrastructure activity

Where Markets Stand Right Now

MARKET	SENTIMENT	KEY DRIVER	DIR
US Equities	BULLISH	S&P 500 at record high, AI-driven tech rally	▲
European Equities	NEUTRAL	Regional consolidation, energy cost pressures	↔
Gold and Precious Metals	BULLISH	Inflation concerns persist despite ceasefire relief	▲
Oil and Energy	VOLATILE	Ceasefire improves mood but Strait of Hormuz supply disruption continues	↕
Cryptocurrency	BULLISH	Risk-on spillover from equities, Bitcoin and Ethereum both rising	▲
Forex (Major Pairs)	NEUTRAL	Quiet session for EUR, GBP; USD/JPY active ahead of Bank of Japan decision	↔

The overall market picture is cautiously positive today, with US stocks leading the way higher while energy markets and central bank decisions remain the key risks to watch this week.