

# 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

1

## **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

2

## **WTI CRUDE AT \$95.79**

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

3

## **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

4

## **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   | DIRECTION |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|
| 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 | ↔         |