

Wall Street Opens Higher as Earnings Season Keeps US Markets Near Record Highs

- US stock market futures pointed to gains at the Monday open, with the S&P 500 set to extend its record high close from last week by around half a percent.
- The main engine driving US stocks higher is a strong earnings season — companies reporting results this quarter have broadly beaten analyst expectations, boosting investor confidence.
- The Iran ceasefire, extended indefinitely last week, continued to hold over the weekend with no new military escalations, keeping the positive mood intact heading into the US session.
- In contrast, European markets are falling sharply today after data showed German consumer confidence hit a new low for 2026 and UK retail confidence collapsed to near-historic lows.

Wall Street is in a confident mood this Monday, with record highs being defended and earnings season providing the fuel to push further higher — even as Europe struggles with an increasingly gloomy economic outlook.

US Stocks at the Open — S&P 500, Nasdaq, and Dow at a Glance

- The S&P 500 opened near 7,198 points on Monday, a gain of about 33 points or 0.46% from Friday's record-high close of 7,165 — the broad market is holding its strongest level in history.
- The Nasdaq 100, which tracks the world's largest technology companies including Apple, Microsoft, and Nvidia, outperformed at the open with a 0.67% gain to 27,486 points, driven by continued enthusiasm for artificial intelligence.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened near 49,345, gaining around 114 points, and is within striking distance of the 50,000 level for the second time this year.
- European markets are moving in the opposite direction: Germany's DAX index is down 0.53% and the UK's FTSE 100 is down 0.52%, reflecting weaker economic data released this morning in Europe.

Economic Data Released Today — What the Numbers Are Telling Us

GERMANY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

-33.3 (May)

German households are the most pessimistic they have been in months, with the reading missing forecasts of -30.2 and falling further from last month's -28.1 — mainly due to high energy costs and global uncertainty

UK RETAIL CONFIDENCE

-68 (April)

British retailers reported one of their worst confidence readings on record, collapsing from -52 last month and far below the -42 forecast — a sign that UK consumers are cutting back significantly

CHINA INDUSTRIAL PROFITS

+15.5% year-to-date

Chinese factories grew profits by 15.5% in the first three months of the year, slightly ahead of the 15.2% pace in prior months — a small but encouraging sign that Asia's largest economy is holding up

DALLAS FED MANUFACTURING (US)

Due 10:30 AM ET

The first major US economic reading of the week is expected later this morning — it will give a snapshot of factory activity in Texas and the broader US south, with the previous reading barely negative at -0.2

Commodities and Crypto at the US Open — Where Prices Stand Right Now

● **GOLD AT \$4,719 PER OZ (-0.15%)**

Gold has slipped slightly from this morning's levels as improving stock market sentiment reduces demand for safe-haven assets — but the precious metal is holding well above \$4,700, supported by ongoing inflation concerns and the uncertain Iran situation

● **WTI OIL AT \$95.11 PER BARREL (-1.11%)**

Oil prices are pulling back as the Iran ceasefire holds, reducing some of the fear that supply through the Middle East would be permanently cut — however, the Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed, keeping oil well above \$90

● **NATURAL GAS AT \$2.76 (+2.68%)**

Natural gas is today's standout commodity, jumping nearly 3% on forecasts for cooler-than-expected weather in parts of the US, which increases near-term demand for heating

● **BITCOIN AT \$77,828 (+0.11%)**

Bitcoin is holding above \$77,000 with a modest gain, tracking the positive mood in equities and consolidating near the level it has held for the past several sessions

Where Markets Stand at the US Open Today

MARKET	SENTIMENT	KEY DRIVER	DIR
US Equities	BULLISH	Record highs extended; earnings season and ceasefire holding	▲
European Equities	BEARISH	German consumer confidence and UK retail both at multi-month lows	▼
Gold and Precious Metals	NEUTRAL	Modest selling as risk appetite improves; floor intact above \$4,700	↔
Oil and Energy	VOLATILE	Ceasefire unwind continues; Brent testing \$100; structural supply deficit remains	▼
Natural Gas	BULLISH	Weather-driven demand surge pushing prices 2.68% higher today	▲
Cryptocurrency	NEUTRAL	Bitcoin above \$77K; consolidating with mild positive bias	↔
Forex (Major Pairs)	NEUTRAL	US dollar softening broadly; Australian dollar the standout gainer; yen strengthening ahead of Bank of Japan tomorrow	↕

The US open is constructive — stocks are near records, the ceasefire is holding, and earnings are beating expectations. The risks are real but manageable: central bank meetings start tomorrow, oil is pulling back from recent highs, and European data is deteriorating. For now, the bulls are in control on Wall Street.