

Morning Market Summary

Index	Close	Chg	% Chg
DJIA	24,483.05	293.60	1.21
S&P500	2,663.99	21.80	0.83
Nasdaq	7,140.25	71.22	1.01
FTSE100	7,258.34	1.20	0.02
DAX	12,415.01	121.04	0.98
CAC40	5,309.22	31.28	0.59
Nikkei225	21,660.28	-26.83	-0.12
Hang Seng	30,831.28	-66.43	-0.21
Shanghai	3,180.16	-27.90	-0.87
All Ords	5,911.40	-14.40	-0.24
ASX200	5,815.50	-13.20	-0.23
BSPC Average	984.5	0.00	0.00

Commodities	Close	Chg	% Chg
Gold (USD/oz)	1,341.20	-0.70	-0.05
Silver (USD/oz)	16.47	0.00	-0.02
Platinum (USD/t oz)	929.03	0.88	0.09
Palladium (USD/t oz)	965.01	-1.37	-0.14
Copper (USD/MT)	305.9	-0.45	-0.15
Oil (USD/bbl)	72.02	-0.04	-0.09
Cocoa (USD/MT)	2,564.00	-16.00	-0.62
Coffee (USD/lb)	120	-0.25	-0.21

PGK v	Buy	Sell	Mid
USD	0.320	0.300	0.310
AUD	0.397	0.382	0.390
EUR	0.254	0.239	0.246
JPY	33.230	31.730	32.480
NZD	0.419	0.404	0.411

Global Markets¹

U.S

U.S. stocks closed with solid gains on Thursday as investors looked past the latest headlines and tweets coming from the White House and turned their focus to earnings season, which kicks off on Friday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average **DJIA, +1.21%** rose 1.2%, or 293.60 points, to 24,483.05. The S&P 500 **SPX, +0.83%** ended up 21.80 points, or 0.8%, to 2,663.99. The Nasdaq Composite Index **COMP, +1.01%** was up 71.22 points, or 1%, to 7,140.25. The day's gains were broad, with 24 of the 30 Dow components gaining, along with six of the 11 primary S&P 500 sectors. Financials were particular outperformers, up 1.8%; the group was in focus ahead of major banks reporting results in the coming sessions.

Geopolitical issues appeared to fade after President Donald Trump tweeted that a military strike on Syria may not be imminent. Escalating tensions over the Middle Eastern country were seen as a major contributor to weakness in Wednesday's session.

Europe

European stocks closed higher Thursday, as concerns over a potential military conflict in Syria eased.

The Stoxx Europe 600 index **SXXP, +0.70%** added 0.7% to close at 378.81, after logging a 0.6% loss on Wednesday. The pan-European gauge is up 1.1% for the week, cutting its year-to-date loss to 2.7%. Germany's DAX 30 index **DAX, +0.98%** gained 1% to finish at 12,415.01, while France's CAC 40 **PX1, +0.59%** rose 0.6% to end at 5,309.22. The U.K.'s FTSE 100 index **UKX, +0.02%** ended less than 0.1% higher at 7,258.34.

Global stocks took a brighter tone after U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted that a military strike on the Middle Eastern country may not be imminent. Meanwhile, minutes of the European Central Bank's meeting also suggest the central bank will move only gradually to phase out its 30 billion-euro (\$37 billion) a month bond-buying program and start raising interest rates.

Asia

Asian stocks fell Thursday as Syria tensions and hawkish statements from the Federal Reserve prompted caution among investors, and as China's Commerce Ministry kept trade tensions simmering.

The Shanghai Composite Index **SHCOMP, -0.87%** fell 0.8%, while Taiwan's Taiex **Y9999, -0.17%** slipped 0.2%, with a 1.2% drop in Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing the main drag on the island's stocks. The Nikkei Stock Average **NIK, -0.12%** slipped 0.1%, led by manufacturing, materials and technology stocks. Fanuc a maker of industrial robots, fell 2%.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index **HSI, -0.21%** initially gained, but finished down 0.2%. South Korea's Kospi **SEU, -0.06%** was also an early riser before it wrapped trading down less than 0.1%. Samsung Electronics initially buoyed the Korean index with gains of 0.3%, and an even stronger advance at one point during the trading session. Korea's central bank kept rates on hold Thursday, in line with market expectations.

¹ MarketWatch

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 **XJO, -0.23%** fluctuated between modest gains and losses before closing down 0.2%, weighed by major banks, while shares in New Zealand **NZ50GR, +0.72%** fell 0.6%.

The declines followed the fall in Wall Street overnight after President Donald Trump tweeted that the U.S. may launch a missile strike against Syria, a tweet he partly walked back in another posting Thursday.

Port Moresby²

The local market closed quiet with few trades going through for BSP at the buy-back account. All the other listed entities finished unchanged at the closing bells.

On the dual listed front; both Oil Search and Newcrest finished higher at A\$7.59 and A\$20.24 a share respectively.

Commodities³

Gold

Gold prices on Thursday suffered their first loss in five sessions, pulling back after climbing to a roughly 2 1/2-month high a day earlier as the metal's haven status lost its appeal.

June gold rose \$18.10, or 1.3%, to settle at \$1,341.90 an ounce.

The U.S. Federal Reserve's March meeting minutes reinforced the view that more interest-rate hikes are on tap and concerns over an immediate U.S. response to a suspected chemical-weapons attack in Syria eased in the wake of comments from President Donald Trump.

Oil

Oil prices settled on a mixed note Thursday, with the global crude benchmark ending slightly lower, but the U.S. benchmark shifting higher late in trading session to hold ground at a more than three-year high.

May West Texas Intermediate crude rose 25 cents, or 0.4%, to settle at \$67.07 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It marked its highest settlement since Dec. 3, 2014, for the second session in a row.

June Brent crude the global benchmark, declined by 4 cents, or less than 0.1%, to \$72.02 a barrel on ICE Futures Europe. It pared much of its earlier losses, after ending at a more than three-year high of \$72.06 Wednesday.

² POMSoX, Company, BSP Capital

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