

20 March 2024

## Dow closes more than 300 points higher, Fed rate decision; ASX to rise

- **Global markets.** Stocks rose Tuesday as the Federal Reserve kicked off its two-day policy meeting. Traders also kept an eye on Nvidia following key announcements from the tech giant.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 320.33 points, or 0.83%, to close at 39,110.76. The 30-stock benchmark registered its best day since Feb. 22. The S&P 500 gained 0.56% to close at 5,178.51 for a fresh record. Meanwhile, the Nasdaq Composite advanced 0.39% to end at 16,166.79.

The central bank is expected to keep rates unchanged Wednesday. However, a recent slate of worrying inflation reports has investors concerned that the central bank could signal interest rates will remain higher for longer than expected.

Super Micro Computer, a primary vendor for building out Nvidia's AI servers, dropped about 9% on news of a share offering. Shares have ripped 220% higher this year on AI enthusiasm, leading the stock to be added to the S&P 500 on Monday. In another sign that the recent bull run could be slowing down, bitcoin proxy MicroStrategy dropped 5.7%. The stock has more than doubled in 2024 as bitcoin surged to record highs.

According to Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research, a "healthy" market digestion after the recent rally will either happen later than investors expect or be deeper than they anticipate.

- **In stock news.** Local: NZ fourth quarter current account at 8.45am

Overseas data: Eurozone March consumer confidence; UK February CPI at 6pm; US Federal Reserve policy statement at 5am Thursday AEDT.

- **In other markets.** Treasury yields dipped broadly, boosting stocks. The rate on the benchmark 10-year Treasury was down more than 4 basis points at 4.295%.
- **Futures.** ASX futures up 13 points or 0.2% to 7715 near 7am AEDT

World Indices	Close	Prior	% Δ
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### Local Markets

All Ordinaries	7,957.8	7,925.2	0.4%
ASX 200	7,703.2	7,675.8	0.4%
ASX Emerging Companies	2,091.2	2,077.3	0.7%

### US Markets

Dow Jones	39,110.8	38,790.4	0.8%
S&P500	5,178.5	5,149.4	0.6%
Nasdaq	18,032.2	17,985.0	0.3%
Russell 2000	2,035.7	2,024.7	0.5%

### Asian & European Markets

Shanghai Composite	3,062.8	3,084.9	-0.7%
Nikkei	40,003.5	39,740.4	0.7%
Hang Seng	16,529.5	16,737.1	-1.2%
FTSE 100	7,738.3	7,722.5	0.2%
DAX 30	17,987.5	17,932.7	0.3%
CAC 40	8,201.1	8,148.2	0.6%

S&P500 Sectors	Close	Prior	% Δ
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Information Technology	3,803.4	3,779.3	0.6%
Communication Services	281.0	281.5	-0.2%
Consumer Discretionary	1,456.4	1,444.0	0.9%

Economic Releases	Time	F'cast	Prior
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USA - Fed Interest Rate Decision	5:00	5.50%	5.5%
USA - Fed Press Conference	5:00		

Key BW Names	Close	Prior	% Δ
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Lotus Resources	0.400	0.405	-1.2%
Elementos	0.145	0.145	0.0%
Frontier Energy	0.360	0.375	-4.0%

Commodities	Close	Prior	% Δ
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Oil - West Texas Crude	82.45	82.10	0.4%
Gold	2,157	2,160	-0.1%
Gold (Aus)	3,303	3,293	0.3%
Silver	24.91	25.03	-0.5%
Uranium (Spot)	88.00	88.00	0.0%
Tin (Futures)	28,700	28,674	0.1%
Copper	4.07	4.13	-1.4%

Other Markets	Close	Prior	% Δ
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SPI200 Futures	7,779.0	7,687.0	1.2%
DX Index	103.6	103.4	0.1%
AUD/USD	0.6532	0.6559	-0.4%
2-Year Treasury Yield (%)	4.687	4.736	-5 bp
10-Year Treasury Yield (%)	4.293	4.328	-4 bp
US 2-10-Year Spread	-0.197	-0.197	0 bp
VIX Index	13.83	14.34	-3.6%