

22 August 2024

Wall Street higher as Fed minutes lift investors' hopes for cut; ASX to rise

- Global markets.** The S&P 500 advanced Wednesday after a summary of the Federal Reserve's policy meeting last month reinforced hope for lower rates in the near future.

The broad index added 0.42% to 5,620.85, marking its ninth winning session of the last 10. Wednesday's advance propelled the benchmark within 1% of its all-time record close. Four of the 11 sectors that comprise the S&P 500 notched 52-week highs during the session.

The Nasdaq Composite climbed 0.57% to 17,918.99, also clinching its ninth positive day of 10. The Dow Jones Industrial Average ticked up by 55.52 points, or 0.14%, to finish at 40,890.49 for its sixth winning day of the last seven.

The Russell 2000 outperformed, with the small cap-focused index climbing more than 1%.

Those moves came as Fed officials said a decrease to the borrowing cost during the September policy meeting was increasingly likely, according to minutes from the July gathering released Wednesday afternoon. The majority of participants indicated that loosening monetary policy would be appropriate if data continued to come in as expected.

Wall Street now anxiously awaits commentary from central bank leader Jerome Powell. The Fed chair is expected to deliver remarks Friday at the Jackson Hole Economic Symposium, where he could provide further clues into the Fed's next rate decision at its September gathering.

- In reporting news.** Companies set to report on Thursday: Super Retail Group (SUL) | Eagers Automotive (APE) | ARN Media (A1N) | Auckland International Airport (AIA) | Insignia Financial (IFL) | IPH (IPH) | Megaport (MP1) | Medibank (MPL) | Monash IVF (MVF) | Northern Star Resources (NST) | QUBE (QUB) | Stockland (SGP) | Sonic Healthcare (SHL) | Reject Shop (TRS) Whitehaven Coal (WHC) | Growthpoint Properties (GOZ)
- In other markets.** Gold hovered near its record high, oil fell, iron ore bounced, and bitcoin edged above \$US61,000 before easing.
- Futures.** ASX futures were up 28 points, or 0.4 per cent to 7993 near 7am AEST

World Indices	Close	Prior	% Δ
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Local Markets

All Ordinaries	8,234.0	8,207.6	0.3%
ASX 200	8,010.5	7,997.7	0.2%
ASX Emerging Companies	2,130.1	2,093.1	1.8%

US Markets

Dow Jones	40,890.5	40,835.0	0.1%
S&P500	5,620.8	5,597.1	0.4%
Nasdaq	19,824.8	19,719.8	0.5%
Russell 2000	2,170.6	2,142.2	1.3%

Asian & European Markets

Shanghai Composite	2,856.6	2,866.7	-0.4%
Nikkei	37,951.7	38,062.9	-0.3%
Hang Seng	17,391.0	17,511.1	-0.7%
FTSE 100	8,283.4	8,273.3	0.1%
DAX 30	18,449.0	18,350.0	0.5%
CAC 40	7,524.7	7,485.7	0.5%

S&P500 Sectors	Close	Prior	% Δ
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Information Technology	4,385.3	4,365.1	0.5%
Communication Services	304.4	303.9	0.2%
Consumer Discretionary	1,506.6	1,489.1	1.2%

Economic Releases	Time	F'cast	Prior
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USA - Jackson Hole	10:00		
ECB - Monetary Policy Meeting	21:30		
USA - Jobless Claims	22:30		

Key BW Names	Close	Prior	% Δ
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Lotus Resources	0.235	0.235	0.0%
Elementos	0.088	0.088	0.0%
Frontier Energy	0.480	0.495	-3.0%

Commodities	Close	Prior	% Δ
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Oil - West Texas Crude	71.88	73.13	-1.7%
Gold	2,550	2,552	-0.1%
Gold (Aus)	3,723	3,727	-0.1%
Silver	29.62	29.46	0.5%
Uranium (Spot)	83.00	83.00	0.0%
Global X Uranium ETF	25.73	25.64	0.4%
Sprott Uranium Miners ETF	41.12	41.02	0.2%
Sprott Physical Uranium Trust	17.33	17.08	1.5%
Tin (Futures)	32,276	32,575	-0.9%
Copper	4.20	4.15	1.2%

Other Markets	Close	Prior	% Δ
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SPI200 Futures	7,993.00	7,897.00	1.2%
DXY Index	101.4	101.9	-0.5%
AUD/USD	0.6752	0.6744	0.1%
2-Year Treasury Yield (%)	3.94	3.99	-6 bp
10-Year Treasury Yield (%)	3.80	3.81	-1 bp
US 2-10-Year Spread	-0.14	-0.18	5 bp
VIX Index	16.26	15.87	2.5%