Creditbank S.A.L.

DAILY MARKET REPORT

19.03.2026

Index	Last	Change
DJIA	46,225.48	-768
S&P 500	6,624.48	-92
NASDAQ	22,152.63	-324
NIKKEI	53,751.00	-68
HANG SENG	23,681.00	-115
DJ EURSTOXX 50	4,952.18	15.98
FTSE 100	10,353.5	-60
CAC 40	7,915.51	62.48
DAXX	23,502.79	-25

US

Stock futures tick down after Dow falls to fresh 2026 low

U.S. stock futures inched down Wednesday night after the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped to a fresh 2026 low, as inflation fears took hold on Wall Street.

Dow futures fell by 71 points, or 0.15%. S&P 500 futures and Nasdaq 100 futures dipped 0.11% and 0.15%, respectively.

Oil prices spiked higher, with Brent crude futures, the international benchmark, topping $111 a barrel after the settle. West Texas Intermediate crude futures briefly rose back above $100 a barrel.

Micron Technology shares lost more than 4% in extended trading. A memory supply shortage helped the semiconductor company nearly triple its revenue in its most recent quarter.

Wall Street is coming off a dismal trading session. On Wednesday, the 30-stock Dow tumbled some 768 points, or 1.6%, to a new closing low for the year. The benchmark, which also touched an intraday low for 2026, even closed below its 200-day moving average, a technical level suggesting the long-term trend for the index is now negative.

The sell-off comes after a surprisingly hot producer prices report, and greater inflation expectations from the Federal Reserve, added to fears that the war in Iran could mean the U.S. economy is headed for a stagflation scenario — or a period of lower growth and higher pricing pressures.

It also lowered expectations for an interest rate cut, even with the Fed signaling one reduction is still coming this year. Markets were last pricing in a 52% probability that the central bank stays on hold in 2026, according to the CME FedWatch Tool.

Investors remain hopeful that the stock market could right itself, given that the backdrop of strong corporate earnings and a resilient consumer remains constructive for equities. For the time being, the key overhang will remain the duration of the Iran war.

“The biggest uncertainty or unknown is, how long is this crisis going to last? Should it linger for much longer, then the related impact on inflation and potentially on growth is what will break the market,” Barclays head of U.S. equity strategy Venu Krishna told CNBC’s “Closing Bell: Overtime” on Wednesday. “But we are not there yet. That’s not our base case. You just have to keep your fingers crossed.”

On the economic front, the latest weekly jobless claims data is due out Thursday morning. The Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index is also set to release.

EUROPE & UK

European stocks close higher as oil prices spike back above $100

LONDON — European stocks began the new trading week in positive territory despite the ongoing unrest in the Middle East and elevated global oil prices.

The pan-European Stoxx 600 was up 0.2% shortly after 8:00 a.m. in London (4:00 a.m. ET), with most major bourses and most sectors trading higher.

The U.S. and Israel's military operation against Iran remains the key focus for global markets. U.S. crude prices climbed Sunday evening, topping $100 per barrel again, as the White House weighed military strikes on Iran's key oil export facilities on Kharg Island.

President Donald Trump said in an interview with the Financial Times published on Sunday that his planned trip to China later this month could be delayed as Washington seeks to pressure Beijing to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Asia-Pacific markets fell overnight while U.S. stock futures rose slightly as Wall Street tried to recover from another losing week.

Central banks are in focus this week with the U.S. Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and Bank of England all holding policy meetings. However, the Middle East conflict has put a brake on any expectations for movement on interest rates.

But President Donald Trump was left "disappointed" after European leaders rejected calls for their countries' involvement. Meanwhile, fresh attacks on Middle East energy infrastructure have compounded supply concerns.

Traders' attention is turning to central bank action this week with the U.S. Federal Reserve opening a two-day policy meeting on Tuesday.

The Fed has come under sustained pressure from Trump to lower interest rates, but the war on Iran means traders are forecasting a hold on interest rates from the central bank when it delivers its monetary policy decision on Wednesday.

Asia

Asia-Pacific markets close mixed as oil gains and Iran war keeps investors on edge

- **Asian markets broadly rose, tracking gains in Wall Street.**
- **Oil gained Tuesday as Iran war stokes supply worries.**
- **U.S. stock futures were flat after major indexes rose overnight.**

Asia-Pacific markets closed mixed as auto and tech stocks rose after Nvidia announced robust revenue forecast for its key chips, and partnerships with carmakers from the region.

Memory maker Samsung Electronics, a decades-old partner of Nvidia gained 2.76%. Taiwan's TSMC, the world's largest chipmaker and manufacturer of Nvidia's advanced AI GPUs, rose 1.36%.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said he expects purchase orders between Blackwell and Vera Rubin chips to reach $1 trillion through 2027 at Nvidia's annual developer conference on Monday.

SK Hynix, however, reversed course to drop 0.41%.

Shares of automakers Hyundai Motor, Nissan Motor and Isuzu, as well as China's BYD And Geely rose after Nvidia announced it was partnering with these companies for its autonomous vehicle development business.

Hyundai Motor advanced 3.16%, while Nissan Motor and Isuzu rose over 1.19% and 1.43%, respectively. BYD added 1.18% and Geely gained 4.61%.

Investors also assessed Iran war developments, with U.S. President Donald Trump looking to delay his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping by "a month or so" due to the Middle East conflict. Trump was expected to travel to China at the end of March.

International benchmark Brent crude gained 3.43% to $103.65 per barrel, while the U.S. West Texas Intermediate rose 3.85% to $97.08 per barrel as of 2:32 a.m. ET.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.36% to close at 8,614.3. Australia's central bank on Tuesday raised benchmark policy rates for a second straight time to 4.1%. The 25

Basis points hike was in line with expectations from analysts polled by Reuters, and comes as Australia's inflation stays above the central bank's upper limit of 3%.

Japan's Nikkei 225 closed flat at 53,700.39, while the Topics jumped 0.45% to 3,627.07. South Korea's Kospi rose 1.63% to end the trading day at 5,640.48, while the small-cap Kodak lost 0.12% to 1,136.94.

Economic Release

Event	**Survey**	***Prior***
EUR : -	-	-

- **US and Canada**

Event	**Survey**	***Prior***
US : -	-	-

DOMESTIC MARKET

Stocks	Last	Close	Change	Volume
SOLIDERE A	75.2	75.5	0.00	0
SOLIDERE B	68.5	68	0.00	0
HOLCIM	71	71	0.00	0
BLOM	#N/A N/A	#N/A N/A	#N/A N/A	0
BLOM BANK	7	7	0.00	0
AUDI	1.6	1.6	0.00	0
BYBLOS BK	0.61	0.61	0.00	0

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Currencies	BID	ASK
EUR/USD	1.145	1.15
GBP/USD	1.325	1.33
USD/JPY	158	159
USD/CAD	1.385	1.39
USD/LBP	89500	89500
USD/CHF	0.79	0.795

Commodities	Spot	Closing
GOLD	4820.68	4815.07
SILVER	72.2	72.08
CRUDE OIL	112.415	112.5

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Market Summary

Commodities

GOLD

Gold prices are lower after Fed keeps rates unchanged

Gold prices were lower on Wednesday after the Federal Reserve kept its overnight rate unchanged, as was expected.

Spot gold traded 2.2% lower at $4,895.61 per ounce. Gold futures lost 2.4% to trade at $4,889.80 per ounce.

While the Fed held policy steady, it still projected to cut rates once in 2026. It also acknowledged uncertainty stemming from the U.S.-Iran war.

“The implications of developments in the Middle East for the U.S. economy are uncertain,” the Fed’s statement said.

OIL

Brent jumps over 4% as Iranian retaliatory strikes on Qatar’s key energy facility stoke supply worries

Oil prices extended gains on Thursday as Middle East remains on the boil with strikes on energy infrastructure in the region fanning fears of a supply crunch.

Qatar said Wednesday that Iranian missile strikes had damaged a key liquefied natural gas export facility. The action followed Tehran's warning about attacking energy facilities in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates after Israel bombed a natural gas processing facility in Iran.

Brent crude May futures were 4.5% higher at $112.19 as of 1:10 a.m. ET, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate futures for April rose over 1% to $97.32.

Iranian missile strikes inflicted "extensive damage" on Ras Laffan Industrial City, the world's largest LNG export facility in the world, Qatar said.

Emergency crews were dispatched to tackle fires at Ras Laffan, QatarEnergy said in a social media post, adding there were no reported casualties. Qatar's Interior Ministry later said the blaze had been brought under control.

FX

Dollar struggles for direction as focus shifts to central bank response

The U.S. dollar lacked a clear direction on Tuesday as investors shifted their focus to central bank meetings, amid uncertainty about the conflict in the Middle East and the oil price outlook.

The Middle East conflict and its economic impact remained in the spotlight with oil prices above $100 a barrel on worries about supply with the Strait of Hormuz mostly shut. Crude futures dropped in the previous session after some vessels sailed through the critical waterway.

"If Iran allows ships destined for India, China and South Asia that could significantly reduce the pressure on supply," said Mohit Kumar, an economist at Jefferies.

"At the same time Iran can claim to retain control of the Strait traffic." Iran launched fresh attacks on the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, the kind of strikes on U.S. Gulf allies that President Donald Trump said had not been expected.

Central banks response in focus

Investors are now wondering whether economies are returning to a 2022-style environment, when central banks launched a major tightening cycle.

The Fed will announce its policy decision on Wednesday, with the European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan following a day later.

They are all expected to keep rates unchanged, but investors will focus on any clues as to how policymakers might respond to the war in the Middle East.

"I think central banks will closely monitor the development of inflation expectations as a lesson from the previous price shock," said Antje Praefcke, forex analyst at Commerzbank.

"And they may also react more quickly than they did after the pandemic," she added.

Traders are pricing in almost two European Central Bank rate hikes in 2026, a sharp shift from the roughly 50% chance of a cut seen before the conflict began. "It is a different environment from 2022, with the Russia-Ukraine war beginning," said Paul Mackel, global head of forex research at HSBC.

"The U.S. dollar had other supportive drivers, including a hawkish Federal Reserve and weaker global growth. These are now missing," he added. The single currency was down 0.15% at $1.1490. On Monday, it reached $1.1409, its lowest level since August 2025.

HSBC's Mackel sees euro/dollar at a 1.10-1.12 range, if Gulf energy supply restrictions persist.

Sources we believe to be reliable, but we do not guarantee or accept responsibility for its completeness and accuracy.

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