

European stocks stable; ceasefire talks, trade tariffs in focus

Investing.com Author Peter Nurse
Published 03/14/2025, 04:05 AM



UK100 0.11% ☆+	FCHI -0.13% ☆+	DE40 -0.07% ☆+	BMWG -3.74% ☆+	LCO 0.84% ☆+	CL 0.98% ☆+	
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Investing.com - European stock markets steadied Friday, stabilizing after recent losses as investors monitored a potential ceasefire deal for Ukraine, while U.S. President Donald Trump's trade tariffs remained in focus.

At 04:05 ET (08:05 GMT), the [DAX index](#) in Germany dropped 0.2%, the [CAC 40](#) in France traded largely flat, while the [FTSE 100](#) in the UK rose 0.1%.

Weekly losses on trade war worries

European stocks have edged higher, rebounding to an extent from the week's sharp losses which have been driven by the potential for a global trade war, likely impacting the already struggling regional economies.

Earlier this week, the EU announced it would retaliate to President Trump's 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum with countermeasures, taking aim at clothing, alcohol and industrial goods imported from the United States.

Trump promptly raised the ante, threatening on Thursday to slap 200% duties on champagne and spirits originating from the bloc, raising concerns that regional and global growth could take a major hit.

"If we were to go to a real trade war, where trade would be dampened significantly, that would have severe consequences," European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said on Friday on BBC's HARDTalk programme. "It would have severe consequences for growth around the world and for prices around the world."

Data released earlier Friday showed that Britain's [gross domestic product](#) contracted unexpectedly by 0.1% in January, a sharp weakening from the 0.4% monthly growth seen at the end of last year, and below the monthly expansion of 0.1% expected.

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[German inflation](#) fell to 2.6% in February, a revision from the preliminary release that reported that annual inflation, harmonised to compare with other

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Sentiment boosted by potential Ukraine ceasefire

However, sentiment has received a minor boost by the talks aimed at agreeing a ceasefire deal, potentially ending the war between Ukraine and Russia.

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BMW faces large profit hit

In the corporate sector, BMW (ETR:[BMWG](#)) stock fell over 2% after the German auto giant reported a sharp drop in net profit in 2024, after weak sales in China and Germany as well as delivery hold-ups, because of problems with a brake, dented performance.

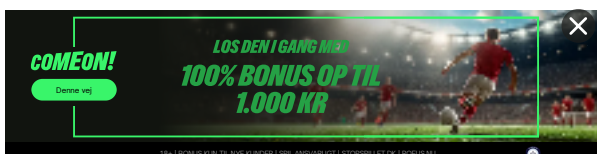
BMW's Chief Financial Officer also indicated that the added tariffs on U.S. imports imposed up until March 12 would reduce its earnings margin in the autos segment by one percentage point.

Daimler (OTC:[MBGAF](#)) Truck (ETR:[DTGGe](#)) reported a drop in financial performance for 2024 compared to the previous year, with the company facing challenges primarily in its European markets, while its North American and Daimler Buses segments remained strong.

Crude edges higher

Oil prices rose Friday, after U.S. President Donald Trump tightened sanctions on Iranian oil and shipping, bouncing after the previous session's losses amid Russia-Ukraine ceasefire talks and escalating trade tensions.

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At 04:05 ET, [Brent](#) futures rose 0.9% to \$70.54 a barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate futures rose 1.1% to \$67.28 a barrel.

Both contracts slumped over 1% during Thursday's session.

The Trump administration intensified its "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran on Thursday by imposing sanctions on Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad and targeting entities and vessels associated with Iran's "shadow fleet," which is used to circumvent existing oil sanctions.

Should you invest \$1,000 in BMWG right now?

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Stocks suffer biggest weekly outflow this year in 'risk-off' move, BofA says

Published 03/14/2025, 03:52 AM

Updated 03/14/2025, 03:55 AM



US500
-1.39%



LONDON (Reuters) - Investors pulled \$2.8 billion from stock funds in the week to Wednesday in the biggest weekly outflow this year, Bank of America said on Friday, in a sign of a souring of the mood in global financial markets.

The U.S. [S&P 500](#) stock index has now fallen more than 10% from its recent high, putting it into correction territory, as U.S. President Donald Trump's stop-start trade wars sow uncertainty among companies and investors.

U.S. government bond funds received the biggest weekly inflow since August at \$6.4 billion, BofA said in its weekly note tracking flows in and out of world markets citing figures from data provider EPFR.

BofA said this was a sign of a "risk-off" mood.

Investors pulled \$2.8 billion from U.S. stock funds in particular but put \$5 billion into European equities.

Real estate stocks suffered the biggest outflow since May 2022 at \$1.2 billion, while high yield bond funds saw the biggest outflow in 12 weeks at \$2.3 billion.

However, BofA's analysts said the move out of stocks had yet to unwind much of the \$156 billion of inflows into global equity funds so far this year.

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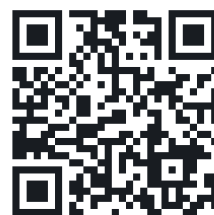
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