

# Dow closes more than 150 points higher Wednesday ahead of key inflation readings: Live updates

Pia Singh | Samantha Subin

Stocks closed higher Wednesday, with investors awaiting the release of fresh U.S. inflation data and earnings.



The S&P 500 gained 0.57% to end at 4,783.45, while the Dow Jones industrial Average added 170.57 points, or 0.45%, to close at 37,695.73. The Nasdaq Composite advanced 0.75% to settle at 14,969.65.

Intuitive Surgical and Lennar pulled the broad market index higher, gaining 10.3% and 3.5%, respectively. Intuitive increased its procedure growth outlook for fiscal year 2024 after the market close on Tuesday, when Lennar had also announced an increase to its annual dividend.

"We're in this calm before the realization," said Phillip Colmar, managing partner and global strategist at MRB Partners, noting that market activity is fairly muted given the Federal Reserve's planned interest rate cuts that it has priced in by year-end.

"Right now, the market's pretty quiet, but I don't think it'll be quiet all year," Colmar said. "We've fully priced this Goldilocks soft landing scenario. What's next? It's probably 'no landing,' which means the bond yields are probably not going to stay as anchored as they are, some of those rate cuts have come back out and then volatility comes back into the equity market ... and then it's not a buy-everything rally that we saw at the year end."

Investors await the latest consumer price index report slated for release Thursday. Economists polled by Dow Jones expect CPI rose 3.2% year over year in December. The producer price index is due on Friday.

Investors will look through the reports for clues on when the Federal Reserve may start cutting rates. Some of those expectations have been dialed back in recent days, although the odds hover at around 64%, according to CME Group FedWatch tool.

"The market is seeing a tug of war against those who see slower, but still resilient, economic growth and those who see a more difficult economic pullback," LPL Financial chief global strategist Quincy Krosby said.

Earnings heats up Friday with results from major financial heavyweights including JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America, along with UnitedHealth and Delta Air Lines

Stocks are coming off a mixed session. The S&P 500 and Dow closed lower Tuesday, while the Nasdaq posted a slight gain.