

US Stock Express

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Historically, QQQ is running 0.7% faster than NASDAQ 100 annually, readers can have a comparison.

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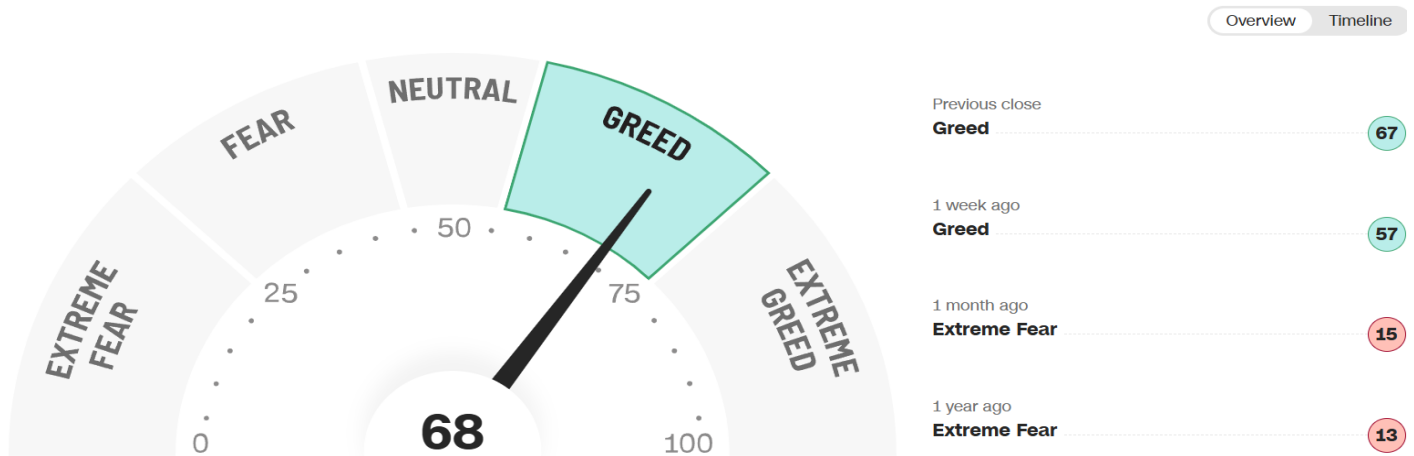
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Never trade with money that has a deadline for withdrawal.
All suggestions are for reference only, even AI cannot be 100% reliable, final decision still lies upon investors.
Copy trading cannot replicate another trader's background or psychological state.*

Fear & Greed Index

What emotion is driving the market now?

[Learn more about the index](#)



Last updated Apr 22 at 9:31:47 AM ET

North East West South is NEWS

SpaceX announced a partnership with artificial intelligence (AI) programming startup Cursor, stating that the agreement includes an option to acquire the startup for \$60 billion later this year. The timing of this move by SpaceX is strategic: the rocket and satellite company, led by Elon Musk, is preparing for an IPO, and it has just acquired xAI, run by the billionaire.

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk posted on the X platform, suggesting that the federal government directly distribute money to citizens to implement "universal high income" to address the massive unemployment caused by AI. This statement quickly sparked widespread debate, with several academics and economists publicly questioning it.

Federal Reserve Chairman candidate Kevin Warsh refuted Democrats' concerns that he would become a "puppet" of the president, repeatedly emphasizing that if confirmed by the Senate, he will be an independent decision-maker. Warsh stated at a Senate Banking Committee hearing on Tuesday that a series of reforms should be implemented to the Fed's decision-making process, including establishing a new framework for addressing inflation and improving communication with the public. He provided few details and avoided questions about the short-term interest rate path.

The U.S. government officially launched its tariff refund system on Monday, involving more than \$166 billion in taxes. Regarding the fact that large U.S. companies such as Apple (AAPL) and Amazon (AMZN) have not yet applied for tariff refunds, President Trump bluntly stated, "That's smart," adding that these companies "know me well" and "I will remember them."

Merck (MRK.US) announced that it has signed a multi-year cooperation agreement with Alphabet's (GOOG.US, GOOGL.US) Google Cloud, worth up to \$1 billion, to expand its use of artificial intelligence in research, manufacturing, and business operations.



[Live updates: Iran war news, Iran says it has seized two ships crossing Strait of Hormuz | CNN](#)



Oil prices got support in Bollinger Bands after and rebounded up into Ichimoku Cloud.



Market Observation

Day 1520
Russia/Ukraine Conflict

Extending Ceasefire without deadline

Donald Trump extended a ceasefire. What happens to the market? Japan's Nikkei rose 236.69 points and closed at 59585.86 (+0.40%), not only on record high but also the highest level in the world and will break the barrier of 60,000 soon. Taiwan's stock market is also on record high with large blooms in the chip industry. NASDAQ continues to climb up. DJIA near the barrier of 50,000 points. This is the response of the markets. The Asian market led the rise, and the US market confirmed the rise.

What is happening in Iran now? This time the ceasefire has no deadline, but only one sided. Trump will wait for a compromise plan from Iran because the IRGC has not promised a ceasefire and is still attacking commercial ships. Originally, Iran was divided into dovish and hawkish sides. IRGC is responsible for stirring up patriotic sentiment to fight against the US, civil government is described as an open side that can accept western culture and is responsible for economic development. They are in hardship now and a few days later they will have no money to pay the salary. IRGC no need to pay the salary and need not care for economic development, just keep on fighting. But now there is a third party, that is the Speaker of Parliament, sometimes dovish and sometimes hawkish, both sides want him. The US is not willing to talk to them because their representative power is not strong enough and asked them to have a compromised plan first.

This is also the plan of Donald Trump, USS George Bush aircraft carrier strike group is coming from South Africa upward, and USS Boxer the amphibious assault ship group is departing from Hawaii toward the Middle East. Making 3 heavy aircraft and 2 light aircraft carrier groups which is 5. A scale more than the Gulf War of 1991 where it was approved by the UN as international police to fight. Some said that Donald Trump is TACO again, isn't it? Some said that he is buying time for deployment.

I have asked the AI to explain what is happening in Kharg Island. Why does the US continue to block the Iranian ports? Besides blocking all supplies including military, civil and IT materials, it is a block of petroleum. The oil fields in Iran continue to have their production and store in Kharg Island, and it will be full in the next few days. So, the oil fields must stop production and due sedimentation when it re-opens the production will be greatly hurt and only half can be done. This is a detrimental blow and can never turn back. The economy of Iran will collapse. This is the only method that can make Iran surrender, much better than sending ground troops to occupy the Kharg Island or Iranian ports or keeping the Hormuz Strait free for passing by the US Navy.

So, when investors understand such a situation, the stock market goes up even if oil prices are going up.

What investors can do is keep on treasure hunting, finding out potential stocks they need to buy. But market sentiment is already back to the end of 2025, that is too many stocks needed to buy, but too little cash left in hand. So, the most effective method is still monthly instalments. That is pick up a stock among the Top 10 market capitalization and keep on buying on your income day monthly, such as NVDA, GOOG, TSLA, TSM..... By the end of the year, your average buying price will be quite near the annual average. But this only can apply to the top 10, for they have strong recovery power and can stand against any crash.

Or you can buy the VOO, for S&P has an annual increase of 12% to 13%. That is after 8 years, your capital will be doubled. Or you can try the QQQ, which runs slightly faster than NASDAQ, or DIA which has a monthly dividend. By buying the ETF on indexes, even if you cannot run faster than the market, you surely will not be left behind. You give up the hopes of buying a stock more profitable than the general market, but it also ensures that even if a crash comes, you would not get a loss greater than the market for they are the market and more than defensive stocks. How should the ratio be? Can be 30% to 60% on the whole depending on whether you are a conservative or aggressive investor.

Iran's Kharg Island oil storage is indeed nearing full capacity due to the U.S. naval blockade, forcing Iran to shut in production. This risks permanent damage to fragile wells, cutting future output by half, and will tighten global oil supply, pushing prices upward. Hindustan Times + 2



GPT-5 is here - OpenAI

Passed Turing Test as AGI (super AI) level

⚠️ What's Happening

- **Kharg Island handles ~90% of Iran's oil exports** and has storage capacity of ~32–34 million barrels.
- With exports blocked, **Iran continues pumping ~1.5–2 million barrels/day**, filling tanks rapidly.
- **Storage will be full within days**, forcing wells to shut in. Older reservoirs risk permanent damage if pressure is lost. achievers.amway.com
- **The U.S. strategy ("Economic Fury") is to choke Iran's oil lifeline, making its greatest asset a liability.** سماء ٹی وی



Impact on Iran's Economy

- Oil revenue accounts for **~80% of Iran's export earnings** and nearly **25% of GDP.** Business Today
- Shut-ins could halve production capacity long-term, crippling Tehran's fiscal base.
- Losses already estimated at **\$435 million/day** under blockade conditions. Business Today



Global Oil Market Effects

- **Supply Shock:** Removal of ~2 million barrels/day from global markets.
- **Price Pressure:** Wartime prices already elevated; further cuts could push Brent crude above \$100/barrel.
- **Volatility:** Traders anticipate sharp swings depending on ceasefire talks and U.S. enforcement.
- **Regional Risk:** Any escalation in Hormuz blockade affects not just Iran but global shipping routes. The Print



GPT-5 is here - OpenAI

✓ What Can Be Done

- **Iran's Options:**
 - Reduce production to slow storage overflow.
 - Seek covert exports via smaller ports or land routes (high risk of sanctions).
 - Negotiate ceasefire terms to reopen maritime trade.
- **Global Mitigation:**
 - Other producers (Saudi Arabia, UAE, U.S. shale) may raise output to stabilize supply.
 - Strategic reserves could be tapped by consuming nations to cushion price spikes.
 - Diplomatic pressure from China, India, and EU to ease blockade for energy stability.

Risk/Reward Matrix

| Actor | Risk | Potential Gain |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Iran | Permanent well damage, GDP collapse | Sanctions relief if concessions made |
| U.S. | Escalation risk, global price surge | Strategic leverage over Tehran |
| Global Market | Supply shock, inflationary pressure | Possible stabilization if producers compensate |

Bottom Line: Iran's oil crisis at Kharg Island is not just a local issue—it's a global supply shock in the making. If production is forced to shut in and wells are damaged, Iran's long-term output could collapse, tightening world oil markets and driving prices higher. The next few days are critical: either diplomacy eases the blockade, or the oil market braces for sustained disruption.

Would you like me to map out **scenarios for oil prices (short-term vs. long-term)** under different outcomes (continued blockade, partial deal, full ceasefire)?