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Markets Hold Steady as Wall Street Awaits Big-Tech Earnings

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U.S. stock futures were little changed in early trading as investors looked ahead to a packed earnings calendar this week. Following a strong start to the week with record highs for both the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite, markets appeared to pause as traders waited for key corporate results that could determine the next direction for equities.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (S&P 500) and the Nasdaq Composite, heavily weighted in technology shares, both notched fresh all-time highs on the back of solid earnings from companies like Domino's Pizza, Cleveland-Cliffs, and Verizon. According to FactSet, more than 85% of the over 60 companies in the S&P 500 that have already reported second-quarter results have exceeded Wall Street expectations. Analysts anticipate overall earnings growth of around 6.7% for the index this quarter, largely driven by major tech firms.

Names such as Philip Morris International, Coca-Cola, and Lockheed Martin are due to report before the market opens. But the real focus for investors is midweek, when earnings from Tesla and Alphabet are set to drop. With President Donald Trump's previously announced tariffs still fresh in the minds of investors, many will be looking closely at corporate commentary to gauge the broader impact on capital expenditure and global operations.

At 6 a.m. Eastern Time futures tied to the Dow Jones Industrial Average (Dow) were flat, while S&P 500 futures edged down by 0.11%, and Nasdaq-100 futures slipped 0.27%. The broader stability suggests that while optimism remains, investors are taking a cautious stance ahead of more market-moving data.

With economic uncertainty persisting and the Federal Reserve expected to hold interest rates steady for now, earnings will likely remain the main catalyst for market direction in the short term. In this environment, well-performing, fiscally responsible companies will continue to set the tone for broader economic confidence.