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New York Stocks Rise on Earnings, Trade Hopes

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26th July 2025, New York, U.S. stock markets ended the week on a high note, lifted by strong corporate earnings and cautious optimism over trade talks. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.47% to close at 44,901.92. The S&P 500 gained 0.4%, reaching a record high of 6,388.64, while the Nasdaq Composite added 0.24% to finish at 21,108.32 marking its 15th record close in 2025.

Sectors leading the S&P 500 included materials and industrials, which rose 1.17% and 0.98% respectively. In contrast, energy and communication services experienced minor losses.

The positive market movement was largely driven by a strong earnings season. Alphabet's performance helped boost investor sentiment, while Verizon shares climbed significantly after exceeding earnings forecasts. FactSet data shows that 82% of the 169 S&P 500 companies that have reported so far have beaten analysts' expectations.

In the technology sector, Tesla recovered with a 3.52% gain following a decline earlier in the week. Microsoft, Apple, Alphabet, and Broadcom also posted gains. However, Nvidia, Meta Platforms, and Amazon slipped slightly.

"The bull market continues, supported by stable inflation, range-bound interest rates, and improving earnings," said Terry Sandven, Chief Equity Strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "Favourable fundamentals suggest a risk-on bias will persist through this earnings season."

Looking ahead, major tech companies, including Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, and Meta, are expected to release earnings in the coming days. Investors are also closely watching the Federal Reserve's upcoming interest rate decision, along with key reports on economic growth and inflation.

Trade developments also influenced market sentiment. U.S. President Donald Trump signaled progress on potential trade deals as the 1st August tariff deadline approaches. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is scheduled to meet Trump in Scotland on Sunday for discussions.

"Tariffs remain a lingering uncertainty," Sandven noted. "Many companies' commentary reflects this ongoing concern."

Markets appear poised to remain volatile amid these economic indicators and geopolitical developments, with analysts suggesting cautious optimism may guide investors into next week.