

Wall Street Ends September Higher, Investors Brace for Jobs Data and Looming U.S. Government Shutdown.

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The U.S. and European stock markets closed with mixed results. Wall Street closed higher on Tuesday, capping a powerful September as investors looked past shutdown risks. Some are vigilant about key labor-market indicators during the week, which include the ADP Employment Net Change, unemployment claims, and the Jobs Growth Report at the end of the week, while monitoring the threat of a government shutdown that may be just hours away if a deal is not struck. The Labor Department has warned that Friday's nonfarm payrolls release would be delayed in the event of a shutdown, depriving the Fed of critical data ahead of its October meeting.

For September, the major indexes delivered the following results:

- **Dow Jones Industrial Average** gained **1.87%**, bringing its year-to-date return to **9.06%**.
- **S&P 500** advanced **3.53%**, pushing its YTD performance to **13.72%**.
- **Nasdaq Composite** climbed to **5.67%**, extending its YTD gain to **17.34%**.
- **Birling Puerto Rico Stock Index** slipped **0.82%**, though it remains up **16.38%** year-to-date.
- **Birling U.S. Bank Index** surged **5.58%** in September, cementing a robust **33.45%** YTD return.

Global Markets & Commodities

European markets advanced, with all indexes closing higher. Gains came as investors balanced U.S. President Trump's latest tariff announcements with ongoing political gridlock in Washington.

Corporate movers included Pandora, down 2.6% after news of CEO Alexander Lacik's retirement, and Lufthansa, off 7.1% as job cuts overshadowed new fleet expansion and margin targets. Analysts at UBS said the airline's 8–10% EBIT margin goal is ambitious but attainable. Global focus also remained on U.S. shutdown risks, with Vice President JD Vance warning a deal may not be reached, raising questions about growth, inflation, and credit ratings. In the U.K., Labour's annual conference highlighted Prime Minister Keir Starmer's call for economic renewal ahead of Rachel Reeves' Autumn Budget. Asian markets ended mixed as China's September PMI rose more than expected but stayed in contraction. The U.S. dollar weakened against major currencies, while WTI oil declined on expectations of additional OPEC+ production.

Labor Market in Focus

August job openings held steady at 7.2 million, exceeding forecasts for a decline. Friday's payrolls are projected to show 50,000 new jobs versus 22,000 in August. The unemployment rate is expected to remain at 4.3%, with wages increasing 3.7% year-over-year, which will keep real wage growth above inflation and support consumer spending.

Markets Brace for Washington's Shutdown

Washington gridlock is once again pushing the U.S. toward a government shutdown, with funding set to expire **on September 30** and no full-year deal in place. A House-passed seven-week stopgap

faces Senate resistance, raising the risk of a partial closure beginning October 1. Nonessential agencies would halt, federal workers would go unpaid until funding resumed, and key data releases, such as the jobs report, could be delayed.

Shutdowns disrupt growth but rarely derail it. Historical data show that each week of closures results in a 0.1–0.2% reduction in quarterly GDP, with activity typically rebounding once operations resume. The last shutdown in 2018 shaved 0.4 percentage points from growth but was followed by a sharp recovery. For markets, shutdowns tend to create short-term volatility but limited lasting damage — the S&P 500 has historically been higher three and six months after most closures.

Investors remain focused on fundamentals: corporate profits, earnings momentum, and the Fed's rate path. With the S&P 500 hitting 16 new highs in September and the Fed signaling restrictive policy but leaning toward cuts, markets appear more sensitive to the economic outlook than to political brinkmanship in Washington.

What's spared and what's hit

- **Not affected:** Treasury payments, Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security, USPS, IRS operations (though refunds may be delayed), FAA/TSA, veterans' benefits, law enforcement.
- **Disrupted:** Federal employee paychecks, food and drug inspections, national parks, SEC and CFTC oversight, FEMA operations, EPA permitting, government data releases, and new SBA loans.

A U.S. government shutdown costs the economy between **\$300 million and \$1.5 billion per day**, depending on its scale and duration. Each week of closures typically reduces quarterly GDP growth by **0.1–0.2%**, with most activity rebounding once funding resumes.

Economic Data:

- **U.S. Job Openings:** Total Nonfarm: rose to 7.227 million, up from 7.208 million last month, increasing 0.26%.
- **Case-Shiller Composite 20 Home Price Index YoY:** fell to 1.80%, compared to 2.12% last month.
- **Case-Shiller Home Price Index:** National: fell to 326.43, down from 326.64 last month.
- **U.S. Retail Gas Price:** rose to \$3.301, up from \$3.296 last week, increasing 0.15%.
- **Germany Consumer Price Index YoY:** is unchanged at 2.20%, compared to 2.20% last month.
- **Germany Real Retail Sales YoY:** fell -1.10%, compared to 3.30% last month.
- **Germany Unemployment Rate:** fell to 6.30%, compared to 6.40% last month.
- **U.K. Real GDP QoQ:** fell to 0.30%, compared to 0.70% last quarter.
- **U.K. Business Investment QoQ:** fell -1.08%, compared to 4.11% last quarter.
- **Japan Housing Starts YoY:** fell -9.80%, compared to -9.72% last month.

Eurozone Summary:

- **Stoxx 600:** Closed at 558.18, up 2.65 points or 0.48%.
- **FTSE 100:** Closed at 9,350.43, up 50.59 or 0.54%.
- **DAX Index:** Closed at 23,880.72, up 135.66 points or 0.57%.

Wall Street Summary:

- **Dow Jones Industrial Average:** closed at 46,397.89, up 81.82 points or 0.18%.
- **S&P 500:** closed at 6,688.46, up 27.25 points or 0.41%.

- **Nasdaq Composite:** closed at 22,660.01, up 68.855 points or 0.31%.
- **Birling Capital Puerto Rico Stock Index:** closed at 4,234.30, down 28.46 points or 0.67%.
- **Birling Capital U.S. Bank Index:** closed at 8,405.53, up 6.64 points or 0.08%.
- **U.S. Treasury 10-year note:** closed at 4.16%.
- **U.S. Treasury 2-year note:** closed at 3.60%.



Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, Nasdaq Composite, Birling Puerto Rico Stock Index & Birling US Bank Index YTD Returns 9.30.25





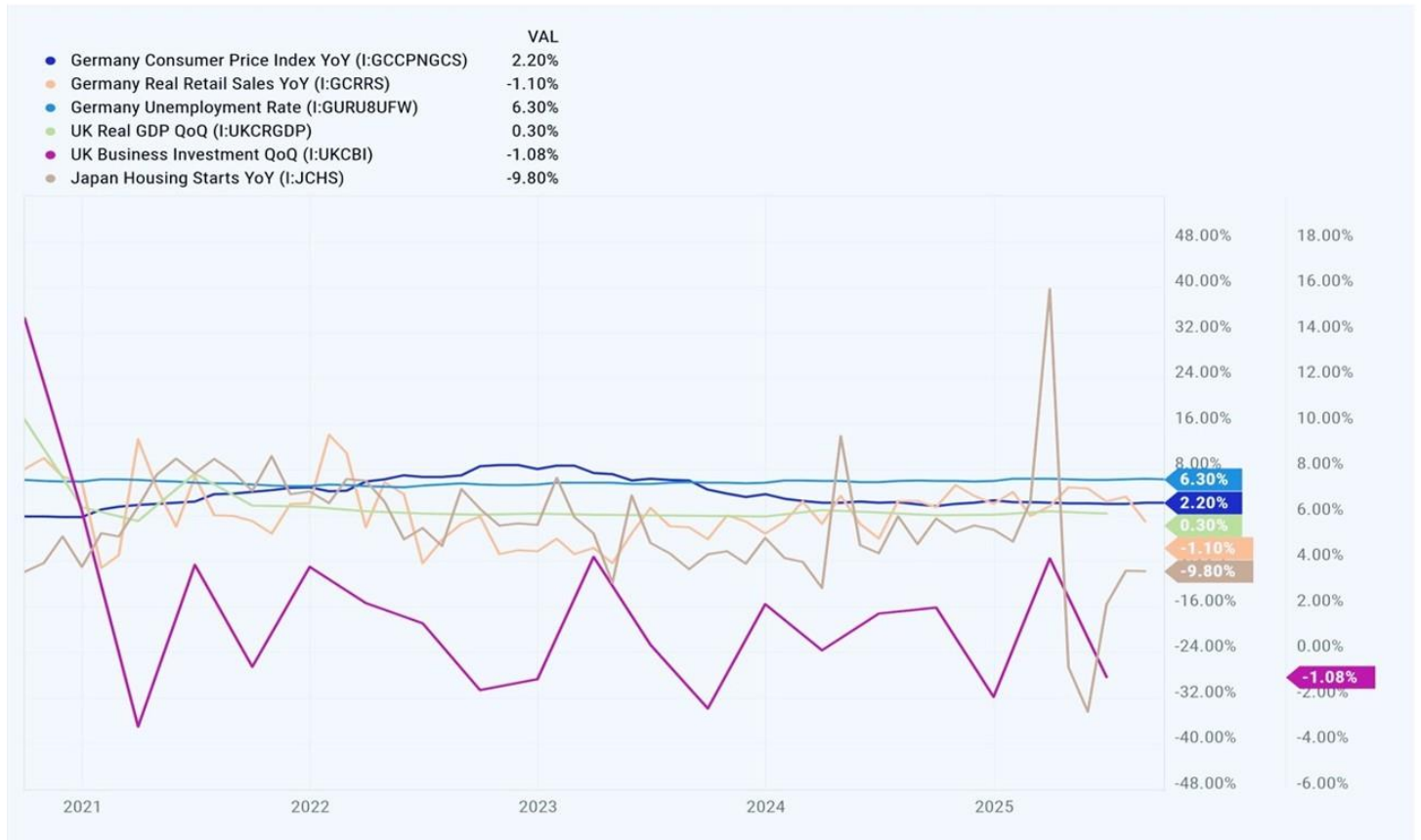
US Job Openings Total Nonfarm & US Retail Gas Price



Case-Shiller Composite Home Price Index, & Case-Shiller Home Price Index National



Germany CPI, Germany Retail Sales, Germany Unemployment Rate, UK Real GDP, UK Business Investment & Japan Housing Starts





Wall Street Recap

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